JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

The Treasury have now completed their enquiries into the past misdeeds of the Editor of this journal. We await the result with serenity.

But for the action of Mr. H. C. Lea, there would have been several more Baronets and Knights in the Birthday Honours' List.

A considerable number of Liberal M.P.'s don't intend to stand again at the next General Election. They have "had some"!

Mr. F. E. Smith will have to give up his platform work. An enormous and ever-increasing practice, at the Bar, and an active House of Commons career are as much as any man, and more than most, can stand.

It is noteworthy that whilst Mr. Haldane is reducing our regular artillery batteries our friends across the Channel are contemplating an enormous increase in the artillery of the French Army. Inclusive of ammunition columns, this increase will amount to no less than 306 field and horse batteries, manned by 2,600 officers and 42,000 men. As the military forces of France are almost at a deadlock for want of men, General Picquart has decided to make the very risky experiment of drawing the extra gunners and drivers from the cavalry and infantry. It is clear that in French military opinion guns will play a more important rôle than ever in the fighting of the future.

In ordinary circumstances it would not occur to many of us to go to a Pan-Anglican Congress in se of diversion. But the reports of the proceedings this motley gathering have revealed a large collection of gems. A discussion on "religion and science" was specially edifying. A certain Dr. Woods Smythe argued that the Book of Genesis contained the doctrine of evolution, but this attempt to reconcile commonsense with Hebrew theology only served to provoke violent recriminations. The Rev. T. A. Lacey "wished to repudiate Dr. Woods Smythe and all his kin. He might be right. If all they said could be proved it would be disastrous, because it would turn men's minds from the true meaning and purpose of the Holy Scriptures to a false conception which would have the most dangerous consequences to religion. He did not care the price of an acorn whether the gorge of Niagara took three or five thousand years to cut." We rub our eyes and wonder whether we can really be in the twentieth century, when we find a presumably educated man talking such twaddle as this. But there are still nicer things to come: "The Bishop of Exeter, enclosing the discussion, said it was only when faith stopped to explain itself or science tainted by speculation went into the region of cosmological generalisation that they found points which they had approached from opposite directions and on which it was difficult to agree." Faith which must not stop to explain itself seems to us to savour somewhat of credulity and might also be a little deficient in intelligibility. We are also curious to hear what science is like when it is not "tainted by speculation."

As was to be expected, a great deal of nonsense was talked about the so-called temperance question. One worthy divine actually objected to clubs because "the glasses were larger there than in the pubs;" in other words, because customers obtained better value for their money. The Bishop of Utah, a place notorious for the moderation of its indulgences, indignantly asked, "Why did they fear prohibition? Was it not sympathy for the moderate drinker? And what was a moderate drinker? Was not he a man who could stop altogether when he wanted to?" This is one of the most delightful arguments we have ever heard. Some people are to be prevented from drinking because they are in the habit of taking too much; the rest of us are to be stopped because we have no such temptation. The same argument would apply to a movement for discouraging the consumption of shrimps or hard-boiled eggs or anything else which we happen to dislike. Br one of the speakers, a London lady, revealed a siderable knowledge of human nature in a speech took the form of a Limerick:

A temperance worker said: "Asses,
This Bill's for the good of the masses,"
But he altered his mind
When he happened to find
That his aunt had her money in Bass's.

There is, of course, one subject on which parsons are specially fitted by experience and breadth of mind to give us a useful lead. Need we add we refer to gambling? A colonial bishop revealed his theories of personal liberty by stating that "the Post Office should be allowed to seize gambling correspondence," and he objected to small stakes at clubs because they "tended to make gambling popular and respectable." Evidently he would prefer to have it carried on in a disreputable way. Gambling—that is to say, speculating upon chance—always has been and always will be popular; and the great thing is to make it respectable, as they do in France and other enlightened countries.

Though most of us live our lives behind screens and curtains, the hair of the Committee on Lotteries and Indecent Publications must have visibly stood on end when Mr. Bob Sievier, of the *Winning Post*, told them that the indubitably improper paragraph for which the paper was recently prosecuted and convicted, was—written by a clergyman. The confidences of the editorial sanctum are not to be betrayed; they are as sacred and inviolable as those of the priest's Confessional and the doctor's consulting room. We confess, however, to a sneaking curiosity to have out the name of that impious parson, in order that we may put it to his congregation whether his effusion should be utilised as the text for a sermon. It would be going beyond the scope of the Committee's enquiries, or we should be happy to furnish it with the names of several holy men who regularly have a sovereign on their fancy, and one of whom has a Scriptural code for telegraphing his bets.

One aspect of the dormant bank balances discussion which our Bill has originated appears to be generally overlooked. It is not merely that the banks lump these balances among their assets and practically claim them as their own, but that people who might be morally and legally entitled to them are prevented from putting in their claim by the fact that there is no obligation on banks to advertise for owners. In hundreds of cases there can be no question that living representatives of deceased or missing customers of the banks are being robbed of cash, securities, and jewellery. Whoever has a right to them, it is clear that the banks have not. This is as clear as daylight, and now that we have a Public Trustee, guaranteed by the State, he is obviously the proper person to take charge of them.

From Broomfleet, in East Yorkshire, we have received the particulars of a series of remarkable proceedings on the part of the local Poor Law Guardians. A man named Goodhand was employed by a guardian named Patchett on his farm, his wages never being more than 16s. 6d. a week, and frequently as little as 7s., 9s., 11s., and 12s. a week, apparently on account of some informalities in the weather. At all events, the man asked for an advance of stipend, and the answer of the guardian was that he should apply to his mother, who seems to have occupied the position of caretaker of a house on the farm, paying £3 a year for the accommodation. The old lady, who is 80 years of age, is in receipt of 3s. a week from the parish, and "to help her a bit," she also took two or three hands as lodgers. Disapproving of this, Patchett caused them to depart. Not receiving the increase of 1s. 6d. a week wages to which he thought himself entitled, Goodhand gave his master notice, and ...ted in other service. Two hours afterwards, ...an Patchett retaliated by giving Goodhand's notice to quit his house, though he knew there another house in the parish to shelter this infirm of 80. To prevent her being evicted, Goodhand ...fe took her into their own home, as well as her ...ughter, his sister. That is the first chapter ...y.

The second chapter opens with a meeting of the guardians, when Patchett attended, and moved that Goodhand should contribute a shilling a week towards the parish relief received by his mother. The motion was carried, and the order was made. Goodhand, or, rather, Goodhand's wife, thereupon sent a letter to the Board, setting forth the facts—that he was already housing his mother and imbecile sister, and that it was impossible to contribute a shilling a week towards her relief. Patchett then arose, described the letter as all lies, and the previous order was confirmed. It will, therefore, be seen that Patchett has influence upon the Board which his fellow-guardians are unable to withstand. That the Poor Law should be used as the instrument of what, on the face of it, looks like personal malice is, however, intolerable, and our advice to this man Goodhand is to refuse to pay the levy made on him and to let the Guardians go to the magistrates for the enforcement of the order. In that case, Patchett and his colleagues will probably receive the snubbing and the drubbing they so well deserve.

When it comes to commerce, there are limits to the Entente Cordiale, as the Board of Trade should know. The French Government having made the proposition that French silver goods should be allowed to come into our markets without being hall-marked, the English Board of Trade circularised the Chambers of Commerce to acquire information as to how the British silver trade would be likely to take it. The question had only to be asked to be answered by another, and naturally the other is whether the French Government perceives any flies on us. The bulk of French silver is comparatively low grade. On the other hand, the trade mark of the lion on British silver is not only valuable in itself, but represents a national guarantee in the assay of ·925 fine silver to the ounce, whereas the French assay office will stamp silver containing ·8 of fine silver to the ounce. In the highest class of silver the French and British differ very little; but, as we have said, the French send us hardly any silver of the highest class, so that if we allowed it to come in without being hall-marked we should be inviting unfair competition in our own markets. The result would probably be that the high standard of British silver goods would be depreciated. "Give and take" is a good principle even in international commerce, but it isn't a British habit to give more than we take. That is why exports and imports usually balance.

His Honour Judge Cyril Dodd does well to call public attention to the fact that the poor man who is head-over-ears in debt does not make as much use of Administration Orders as he is entitled to do. But the reason, as he shows, is not far to seek. If a poor man wants to go bankrupt, and clear himself of his wearing and worrying burden, he is handicapped by the fact that he has to pay in fees 2s. for every sovereign he owes. Supposing he is in debt £50, he must find £5 in cash before an Administration Order is granted, and he is about as able to conjure out of the void the one sum as the other. The man who determines to smash for a few thousands usually has enough to effect that desirable consummation, while the poor must submit to the everlasting processes of judgment summonses and committal orders. Judge Dodd's new system in the Barnsley district is to grant Administration Orders on the instalment system. The small debtor pays a shilling in the £ down as fees up to the first £20, and the Administration Order is granted on payment of the first instalment. We like His Honour's humane and common-sense consideration for the class on whose behalf Administration Orders were instituted. May he long flourish under his wig.

When a man has achieved ninety-one years in the land, no doubt he becomes, in a way, an authority on

how to live long; but whether the rules which he has himself found of benefit will suit other people is another matter. Mr. T. H. Baylis, K.C., the oldest King's Counsel extant, who can recall the days when London was lit by lamps and the British navy was made of wood, has naturally a dictum ready when he is asked for it. "I am not and never was a teetotaler," he says, "but have always drunk temperately. I never could smoke. Avoid draughts and chills, and always be temperate, and you will surely live long." The advice is so good that it is better than most of the kind, but even men who avoid draughts and chills and are temperate in all things do not always live to 91. Of a hundred thousand people living at the age of 10, not more than 1,000 will be living at the age of 91, so that the chances are 100 to 1 against any child reaching the age of Mr. Baylis. The average man of 30 has rather more than a similar period to live. His span is not threescore years and ten, but about 62 years. All this said, it is clear that, other things being equal, the temperate man has the best chance of survival. Moreover, he enjoys a larger share of good health while he lives and has a keener capacity for work as well as for fun.

A genius has found a new way of getting off jury service. He was summoned into the box the other day; wherefrom he explained in tones of solemn and earnest conviction that he was a free citizen of a free country, and that until women had a voice in making the laws under which they are tried he objected to try any of them. If he had said that he ran a provision store and had left nobody except his mother-in-law to cut the bacon, or that he kept a chemist's shop and his wife might sell somebody an ounce of arsenic instead of bicarbonate of soda, his lordship would probably have remarked that the duty of every citizen was to serve his country and his King. But that objection to trying women seems to have considerably dazed the great Littler and he excused the juryman "for the present." He might have pointed out that whether or not women get the vote in the sweet by-and-bye, there will always be a large number of laws which they have not assisted in making, and that it will be too big an order to make 'em all over again, subject to feminine revision. If every juryman in the Kingdom is to be let off from trying women by laws which they didn't help to make the Divorce Court for one can put up the shutters. And to be logical, women should object to exercise such votes as they already have—on the ground that they are given by man-made law. Children, indeed, would appear to be the only things which, logically, women should obey.

One of our readers complains that railway booking clerks never tell him when he is entitled to a cheap excursion ticket. He thinks that they ought to be instructed, when passengers ask for return tickets, to enquire how soon they intend to return. We suppose, however, that railway companies, like other commercial concerns, endeavour to make as much as they can out of their customers. At the same time, we have never been able to understand why a railway company should charge more when a return journey is deferred, seeing that they have the use of the passengers' money for a longer period.

And here is a grievance of another reader. He went into the American bar of the Carlton Hotel the other day with some friends in pursuit of light refreshment. Enquiring the amount of his indebtedness, he was told three shillings, and handed the waiter a sovereign. Time passed and he continued to make merry with his friends until it suddenly occurred to him that he had had no change. He mentioned this fact to the waiter, who replied in the calmest tones, "Didn't I give it you, sir?" and went off to the sideboard and fetched a plate where he had deposited the money. Our correspondent thinks that the obvious intention was to presu his absence of mind and confiscate the chan should be more careful, but the necessity of e vigilance in a house of call is annoying. Bars are becoming as unscrupulous as banks. We shall to introduce a Bill to deal with unclaimed change

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Put not your trust in the popular Press lest adventure you be led astray. The other day we an elaborate account of a Nihilist schoolmistress had arranged to blow up the Royal Family of Ru but repented at the last moment and threw he in front of a train. Now it is a curious fact tha startling an event should have been reported on one paper and that no further reference to the sens was made on any subsequent day. We should thought that pride over such a piece of exclusive mation would at least have prompted a few wo rejoicing. But, as we have already pointed out, appear to be a large number of practical jokers ab

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Quite recently, the same paper afforded the inhabitants of Christchurch a similar emotion. They read how the chancel of the eponymous edifice had collapsed, that there had been a terrible panic, with choir boys hiding under the seats, and that the situation had only been saved by the presence of mind of the organist, who continued to play through the turmoil. A friend of ours happened to meet the organist and congratulated him upon his courage. He then learned that the disaster amounted only to the fall of a piece of plaster, that no one had been in the least alarmed, and that the organist had gone on playing in sublime ignorance of the trivial incident. Thus is history written.

The ways of the Army authorities are curious, to say the least of them. Our attention has been directed to the case of a man named Watkins, who joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in September, 1906. Watkins seems to be a bit of a sea lawyer, and was no doubt a difficult man to handle. From the outset fell foul of the powers that be, and during his firs month's service he was awarded one day in barracks for "being absent from school parade." And so it went on from month to month. He was constantly being charged with some petty misconduct, and defended himself very astutely. At last the colonel seems to have got sick of him, as well he might; but instead of taking the steps open to him to get Watkins out of the Army, the colonel took a course of his own. He appears to have found it difficult to believe that a man who gave him so much trouble—and, by the way, put him in the wrong so often on matters of procedure—could be in his sound senses, and so arrangements were made to send him "to another place"; the other place being the Chartham Asylum, Kent, where he was admitted upon a certificate that he was suffering from the delusions that people were persecuting him, and placing poison in his food. Fortunately for Watkins, the authorities at Chartham Asylum knew their business, and they soon found out that the charge of madness was moonshine. After being at the asylum seven weeks, Watkins was discharged, being no more insane than the people who sent him there. But note the injustice to the man. He goes into the world with discharge papers which would inform anyone who was willing to employ him that he left the Army because he was insane. Unless that certificate is altered, Watkins may have the greatest difficulty in gettin employment, and a most damaging slur follow through life. Come, Mr. Haldane.

We have received from a Mr. R. E. Sanders a c the *Herts and Cambs Reporter*, containing an a of that gentleman's raid upon the premises Royston Golf Club on Whit Monday, with

should take editorial notice of the affair. We that assuming the rôle of a modern John len—having taken the view that the Club House ne railed-in enclosure surrounding it, standing on non land, was an encroachment upon the rights people—this gallant gentleman, accompanied by ife and family, marched at the head of two or hundred townspeople to Royston Heath, and nded admittance to the Golf Club premises, into ch he subsequently forced his way. Here he was by the Committee of the Club, who politely informed that he was trespassing, and requested him to draw, which he ultimately did, and then, with the f his son, tore down a portion of the railings ding the Club enclosure. From enquiries we ade, however, we can find no evidence of any eling on the part of the inhabitants of Royston question, and it would appear that the size Sanders' following was accounted for rather by pectation that there would be some "fun," than by sense of burning indignation. We are informed at the Golf Club pays rent to the Conservators of the Heath for their premises and course, that they admit the working men of the town to membership of the Club on a purely nominal subscription, and that the existence of the links, which are amongst the best in the country, has conduced not a little to the prosperity of the town. We further understand that Mr. Sanders' nomination as a member of the Club was recently declined—which may have something to do with his action in the matter.

We daresay some of our readers will upbraid us for publishing on another page the article we have headed "A Bantam Cock Colony." It tells the truth without disguise respecting our relations with Natal. It is not pleasant reading for those who imagine that Natal is loyal in the real sense of the word. We prize the Empire as much as, and possibly a good deal more than some of the gentlemen who grow eloquent upon it in their after-dinner oratory, but no Empire was ever kept together by blinking truths because they happen to be unpleasant. The writer of the article to which we e referred draws a very unpleasant picture of the white community of Natal. The question is whether it is a true picture. If it be, the sooner we appreciate it the better. We do not think anyone who knows Natal and wishes to hide nothing will deny that the article is a presentment of fact. Some may think it better to slur over such matters, though they go to the root of our relations with the Colonies. We think otherwise.

The Duke of Northumberland is, we believe, a member of that curious body known as Christian Scientists. He also owns immense tracts of land in the county whose name he bears. The Northumberland County Council have been in want of a bit of land for the purpose of building a school between Westerhope and North Warbottle. The Duke of Northumberland was the only man in those parts from whom they could get it and was willing to sell—at a price. The plot purchased covered three-quarters of an acre—three-quarters of an acre of ordinary agricultural land. How much the Duke originally asked for it we do not know. He actually got £698 15s. net, that is to say, exclusive of law costs. If the farmer who was renting the land when it was sold and his descendants remained upon it and paid the same rent for 500 years, he and they would have paid at the end of that pretty considerable period just about as much as the Duke has now got in coin of the realm. In answering a question upon the purchase in the House of Commons, Mr. Masterman d that the price was fixed by arbitration. We are us to know how any two land valuers could have d at the conclusion that this three-quarters of an as worth the sum they put upon it. We wonat those same valuers would have valued it at Duke had happened to want to buy it, and they acting for him.

Nothing did more to prevent the country accepting Mr. Chamberlain's Fiscal proposals when first put before it than his unfortunate inaccuracies of statement. In attempting to persuade the constituencies to make a radical change in fiscal policy he made statements and drew deductions so glaringly erroneous that they were apparent to the man in the street. We hope that Mr. Asquith will not fall into the same error in his conduct of the Old Age Pension scheme. We say this because he has already made more than one statement dealing with points of crucial importance which will not bear examination. Take, for example, his particulars about the number of persons in Germany in receipt of an old age pension. The point is a very important one, since the actual figures would give us some indication, however rough, of the number that will have to be dealt with under any pension scheme in this country. Mr. Asquith said that there were only 162,277 Germans in receipt of old age pensions. Mr. Chaplin challenged this statement, and asserted that the number is not 162,277, but 962,277, a difference of 800,000. How is that difference explained? It is very difficult to believe that Mr. Asquith could have spoken in ignorance, and not less difficult to believe that he desired to mislead the House. The explanation is that in Germany there are two classes of persons, one in receipt of an old age pension, and the number of these is, as Mr. Asquith said, 162,277; the other in receipt of an infirmity allowance, and the number of these is 800,000. Now what is an infirmity pension? It is, to all intents and purposes, an Old Age Pension. If a workman becomes infirm after the age of 46, and assuming he has contributed his 2d. per week, he is entitled to an infirmity pension, and the infirmity pension is, taking the average, slightly higher than the Old Age Pension, so that a man has no inducement to change the one into the other. In these circumstances it would have been more correct of the Prime Minister to have said that the number of Old Age pensioners in Germany is really a million.

Apparently the last has been heard of the Purley school scandal. The facts will be familiar to our readers. A Mrs. Moule had been headmistress of the Purley Church of England school for twelve years, and had conducted it during that time efficiently, with nothing to be urged either against her abilities or her character. But Mrs. Moule had a daughter who loved not wisely but too well. The result was that the girl had to get married hastily. She left the village until the child was born; then she went to stay with her mother for a few days. The rector of the parish—one of those nice, charitable Christian gentlemen with whom readers of JOHN BULL are by this time well acquainted—demanded that Mrs. Moule should turn her daughter out of doors for at least six months. The mother refused, her "conduct" was brought to the notice of the school managers by the holy man aforesaid, and she was dismissed her employment. The Education Committee of the Berks County Council supported the parson and the managers in their monstrous act of injustice, and tried to burke discussion. The whole question has since been raised at a special meeting of the Council, when the decision arrived at was "that this Council expresses a wish that the Education Committee will, should opportunity offer, sanction Mrs. Moule's appointment to a similar post to that which she recently held." Seeing that much criticism has put up the backs of the Education Committee, this seems the most tactful resolution which could have been adopted in the personal interests of the schoolmistress, though it falls far short of full and immediate justice. However, it puts the Committee upon its honour to do the right thing, and they must not fail to do it—and do it quickly.

Some thoughtless people may be inclined to laugh a great laugh at the statement made by Mr. Atherley-Jones, during the debate on Mr. Gladstone's Pre-

vention of Crimes Bill, that he had often thought it was a mere accident that he was not standing in the dock and the prisoner condemning him from the judgment seat. But those who have given serious thought to the problem of the criminal will not laugh. Heredity, environment, the injustices and inequalities of our social system have much, if not everything, to answer for. It is easy to say that this or that man is a born criminal. But to say that is to give away the whole case for the treatment of crime solely by punishment. We do not punish men for being born lunatics or born consumptives. We try to cure them. But the born criminal we make not the slightest effort to cure. We pile punishment on punishment, hardening him in his natural instincts, brutalising him, degrading him, caging him year after year, but changing him in nothing except to change him for the worse. Our doctors and men of science study everything except the psychology of crime.

We are delighted to think that our intervention in Parliament on behalf of McGuire has had such an immediate and satisfactory result. In view of what is now known as to the views of the jury at the trial, it was but right that the Government should adopt the course it has done of abandoning the prosecution. We have no desire to be vainglorious in regard to such a matter, but we cannot help feeling that had the matter not been raised in the House, the wretched man might have lingered in prison for another six months before being finally acquitted.

What is Your Number?

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR FIFTY HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for issues of MAY 16TH and 23RD:—

R. R. JAMES, 3, Chesterfield Gardens, Harringay, N. (No. 126220—May 16th.)
EDWARD PENKHAM, 5, Champion Park, Lower Sydenham, Kent. (No. 76026—May 16th.)
F. G. NORMAN, 47, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, N.W. (No. 100284—May 23rd.)
WM. R. INGLIS, 10, Grove Street, Glasgow. (No. 34624—May 23rd.)
JOSEPH ASHWARTH, 124, Glasgow Street, Newington, Hull. (No. 76275—May 23rd.)
JOHN CHAPPLE, The Laurels, Baraham, Bognor. (No. 86068—May 23rd.)
MRS ESTHER THOMPSON, 24, Salisbury Road, Harringay, N. (No. 42687—May 23rd.)
W. BLACK, 6, Porter Street, Accrington, Lancs. (No. 115506—May 23rd.)
J. POOLE, 12, High Street, North Finchley, N. (No. 50619—May 23rd.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of MAY 30TH:—

3816; 4326; 6135; 14958; 16330; 20774; 24048; 26150; 29453; 32131; 37366; 38918; 39306; 39514; 44931; 45783; 45682; 54923; 56761; 60066; 61607; 65387; 67364; 74266; 77317; 77691; 78283; 78439; 78676; 81110; 81614; 82698; 83152; 86550; 87365; 90574; 97012; 97718; 99009; 101619; 106366; 108462; 109963; 110875; 123226; 123558; 124965; 130331; 130393; 130431.

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED AUGUST 8TH (PUBLISHED AUGUST 6TH).

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For announcing "the marriage of the LATE *Mr. F. B. Elliot as about to take place,"*
THE *IRISH INDEPENDENT*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For quoting Bishop Ridding as having said "the great thing is not so much to give people knowledge as to teach them to drink,"
THE *WEEKLY SCOTSMAN*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "in the eighth carriage were two Majesty's Maids of Honour—Viscount Althorp and Herschell,"
THE NORTHAMPTON DAILY CHRONIC
TAKES THE BIS.

For reporting that "Albert Tingey, jun., a boy AG. *was guilty of being drunk and disorderly at Sandy on ... y 30" and that there "was a number of previous convictions against defendant,"*
THE BEDFORDSHIRE EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that between 400 and 500 grocers and provision merchants paid a visit to Port Sunlight and "from first to last enjoyed the bountiful hospital of the firm,"
THE *MERTHYR EXPRESS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For informing us that "the boy now has greater opportunities afforded him of 'becoming a man' than what his forbears had, and the same with the girl,"
THE *LIVERPOOL ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "there was nothing phenomenal about t. hitting until Thompson's first over after the tea interval, wh Denton hit up 16 off the first five deliveries, three fours ... four twos,"
THE *SPORTING CHRONICLE*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that "to-day there are two specially interesting matches at Lord's,"
THE *DAILY MAIL*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For including in a list of London celebrations of Empire Day "the shooting of the English team of boys for the Empire Day trophy given by the Earl of Meath,"
THE *DAILY EXPRESS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "it was also stated that the two MILK *dresses were worn out,"*
THE *MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "thunder and rain began to fall in large drops,"
THE *BRIGHTON ARGUS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "M. Auguste Remy, aged 27, was found dead a few days ago," and that "with him resided his son, who was married two years ago, and is now seeking a divorce,"
THE *WEEKLY DISPATCH*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For attempting to convey admiration for the versatility of a playwright by calling him "a very Tartufe of stage art,"
THE DRAMATIC CRITIC OF THE *DAILY MAIL*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, with reference to Sir Robert Hart's ret that "Lord Hart, with her son, had travelled from Lo last night to meet her husband,"
THE *EVENING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUI

THE BANTAM COCK COLONY.

PLAIN WORDS ABOUT NATAL.

Natalians have long been famous among their neighbours for their "cockiness," and an inflated self-importance. This has blinded them to the subtle sarcasm of some public person who referred to their colony as "Loyal little Natal."

It is an axiom that frequent repetition brings conviction. Natalians are now so used to being labelled "loyal," that even some of the few thinking men among the very mediocre twenty thousand who make up the total adult population of that Bulwark of the British Empire, are disposed to fancy it is something more than sly "leg-pulling."

Purse-nal Reasons for Loyalty.

[illegible]alty to Great Britain has always been interpreted in [illegible] to mean sticking to the Mother Country so long as [illegible]ing is to be made by it.

The Zulu War found Natal bankrupt. The loyalty of the [illegible]pon catering for the British troops laid the foundation [illegible]er fortunes of more than half of the successful firms [illegible]at to-day. Then came the 1880 Boer War, and the now enlightened and loyal Natalian showed his aptitude for civilization by fleecing the commissariat officers till they yelled "Thief!" and kicked. For a space there were only a few petty Kaffir wars, which offered small scope for the genius of the contractor. Just as money was growing scarce again, and rent was being tendered in mealies and fowls, came the gold discoveries on the Rand. Natal immediately recognised in Paul Krúger—whom, since the war, it has abused as a traitorous enemy of the dear Mother Country—a source of revenue, and a person to be friendly with.

The Courtship of Kruger.

Natal has always been the butt of the local satirist. One of these solemnly and authoritatively declared that Paul had a very tender regard for Natal because of the important part it played in bringing to an end the war which proved so satisfactory to him and his burghers. When pressed for a further explanation of this dark saying, the author of the "spoof" handly informed his questioners that he had been assured by Lord Wolseley that the British Government had agreed to surrender after Majuba, not out of fear of Boer bullets, but because it was doubtful whether the exchequer would bear the strain of a prolonged war with Natal loyalists as purveyors to the commissariat.

The great puzzle was how to stand in with Kruger without offending the Mother Country. Natal was a Crown Colony then, otherwise there would have been an easy way out. Instead of talking of separation, they talked railway, "for the extension of that friendliness which should exist between adjacent States." In short, Natal hurried on a continuation of its railway system to Johannesburg so as to collar the overland trade and defeat Cape Colony, which then had most of it. Of course, they did not talk commerce, but philanthropy and brotherly love. But Oom Paul knew Natal, and was coy. Even when banquetted and bored at Durban, where the children of loyalists were drilled to sing the *Volksleid*, he lay low and said nothing, awaiting overtures. A lead was given by the Honourable Harry Escombe, one of the chosen people whom the people had appointed their leader. Speaking freely in the supposed absence of reporters, he declared, in the straightforward directness of the business man, that, if communion with the Transvaal could only be obtained at the cost of throwing over allegiance to England, there could be no question on which side of the bread the butter was. In the early days of the last war, when Harry Escombe was flag-wagging and reminding Natalians of their duty to Mother Country, some busybody dug out that secession speech. They say it broke poor Escombe's heart.

Compensation First.

Natal was by no means enthusiastic over the war, particularly when it looked odds on the Boers getting down to Durban. But there were men in the Government who knew how to handle the crowd. They worried the British authorities until they got an official guarantee that Natal loyalists would be amply compensated for the disturbance [illegible] their tennis lawns, and their loyalty and martial ardour [illegible] bubbled over. Natalians who had married into Boer [illegible]ies were denounced as spies or suspects, and the [illegible]nt Chief Justice, then Attorney-General, had to bring [illegible]ion against a leading Natal paper to prove that he [illegible], although engaged to marry a Boer maiden. The [illegible] [illegible]nteers departed for the field of carnage, gorgeous [illegible]niforms, and loaded with cigarettes, chocolates, and flowers, forced upon them by weeping admirers. Was not our own Winston Churchill with the Durban Light Infantry, who got into trouble in that affair of the armoured train at Chievely? And do they not to this day quote and cherish his exhortation to them when under fire to "be men!" in insouciante ignorance of the implied slur? Meanwhile, special correspondents near the scenes of action filled the Natal press with glorious accounts of the doings of "Our Boys."

Home, Boys, Home!

As soon as Ladysmith was relieved, "Our Boys" rushed home. They did not perform out of Natal. The Mother Country was left to rely upon her own troops. "Our Boys" had more important business on hand—to inspect and assess the damage done to their tennis lawns. Then came the clamour and struggle for compensation, varied by discussions as to how much territory Natal was to get. The townspeople were busy exploiting the refugees from the Transvaal. The extortion practised on these refugees is a subject of execration to this day on the Rand. The fate of the beloved Mother Country in the war raging over the Natal border became a matter of absolute unimportance beside the compensation question. The latest and most trivial item of gossip as to the movements and intentions of the Compensation Commissioners was given big type and first place in the papers. Next came such war news as related to the arrival of troops who would spend money in Natal *en route*. News of the progress of the war was only interesting when it could be accepted as a sign of its prolongation. The blackest day in the annals of Natal was that of the declaration of peace. The lavish and indiscriminate compensation paid to alleged sufferers by the invasion of Natal was one of the most scandalous of a long series of war scandals. As a matter of fact, the invasion saved the colony from bankruptcy.

Naboth's Vineyard.

For years Natal has coveted Zululand. It is quite true she has need of an outlet for her growing population. Farming there being largely restricted to cattle ranching, very large tracts of land are essential. Agriculture is practically non-existent among the whites. The sons of farmers cannot remain on the paternal property, which can only support a certain amount of cattle. They must go afield. Zululand is the natural extension of Natal. At present it is rigorously reserved to the Zulus. They must, therefore, be got rid of, by fair means or foul. Natalians on the spot make no secret of this view of the position. Nobody there believes in the yarns of smouldering insurrection, and all know that Dinuzulu, as a shrewd Anglicised native, is hardly fool enough to risk another, and certainly a life term of banishment, for the sake of heading a native row. He knows he has everything to lose and nothing to gain, and a certainty of ultimate defeat. He fully appreciates his £500 a year, and his snug position as chief Induna, and, if left alone, will stick to it like a parson to a fat living. Natal knows all this quite well, also that Dinuzulu must be prodded to show fight like a played-out bull in the ring.

Sensational Revelations in Store.

It is fervently to be hoped, in the interests of justice and of the enlightenment of people at home, that the long-delayed trial of Dinuzulu will be fully reported in the English papers. If it is, we may prepare for a startling eye-opener and a severe shock to the smug, ignorant notion that in Christian British dependencies the native gets justice. One very significant fact should not be lost sight of in this relation, namely, that no Natal Advocate dare act as counsel for an unpopular native. Hence, an Englishman, ignorant of the native language and customs, had to be imported, and he has retired, protesting against the unfair attempts of the Government to prejudice the trial. The one redeeming feature in the whole of this business is that two influential papers out of the three in the Colony have protested strongly, and fearlessly charged the Government with unfairness. This circumstance should be remembered to the honour of the *Times of Natal* and the *Natal Witness*. The latter has just been cast in damages at the suit of the Minister of Justice. That these two papers should take this attitude is most damning against the Natal Government, for these journals are usually out-and-out supporters and exponents of the Colonial view. To find them "agin the Government" is tantamount to seeing the *Sporting Times* championing the Anti-Gambling League. It is a form of pluck that only those can fully appreciate who know what it means to go against the majority of public opinion on the colour question in a South African community.

DISMISSAL WITHOUT TRIAL.

AN APPEAL TO THE ADMIRALTY.

We have been asked to direct the attention of the public to the case of Mr. Harry Edward Bockett, who has been dismissed from the service of the Admiralty after having been in the department for fifteen years. For the first eight years Mr. Bockett served in the Hydrographic Department, and whilst so serving, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty sent forward a recommendation to the Treasury that he should be placed upon the Establishment on the grounds of his exceptional ability, and the fact that for over a year he had occupied the place and carried on the duties of a permanent official. This recommendation was not carried into effect owing to a change of Government, and in 1900 Sir Edward Raban (Director of Works) asked the Board of Admiralty to transfer Mr. Bockett to his (Sir Edward's) department in consequence of his technical knowledge. This was approved, and Mr. Bockett accepted service in that department at a £20 increase of pay, and during the eight years he served in it he received six further annual rises aggregating £70. These rises were not automatic, and each was given for only meritorious service on special recommendation to the Board by the heads of departments. While serving in the D.W. department, Mr. Bockett repeatedly received official praise for his work, once even by the Board of Admiralty. We mention these facts to show that Mr. Bockett was a capable official, appreciated by his official superiors, and performed his duties well, and yet Mr. Bockett has been dismissed from his appointment, although no actual charge has been brought against him, and no definite reason given for his dismissal, whilst declining to grant an enquiry. What is the explanation?

In December last a member of the Works Department of the Admiralty was suspended on account of certain irregularities in connection with the Drawing Office stores which he was accustomed to issue. He protested his innocence, and he had the sympathy of all his fellow clerks, some of whom met together and drafted a letter to the Secretary to the Admiralty, which he signed. Its purport was to ask "for an enquiry into the terms of my engagement and dismissal," and in the body of the letter there appeared the following passage:—

> I was suspended from duty on December 13th, 1907, and I understand the particulars of the charge against me were referred to the Treasury Solicitor, who advised that there were insufficient grounds for a prosecution. Instead of being reinstated, I was thereupon officially informed that I was discharged from my appointment, my discharge to take effect from the date of my suspension.

The authorities were much annoyed at this reference to the opinion of the Treasury Solicitor. They said it could only have been got by office secrets being divulged, and that whoever divulged them was guilty of gross misconduct. As to that view of the matter, we should be inclined to agree with it, but it in no way justifies Mr. Bockett's dismissal. The person who wrote the letter was the officer incriminated, and the responsibility for the statement about the Treasury Solicitor's opinion was his. But the Admiralty authorities wished to know who gave him the information, and a member of the staff volunteered the information that "Bockett was at the bottom of it." Charged with inspiring the letter, Mr. Bockett admitted it, so far as he himself was concerned, and justified it on the ground that he was anxious to do a good turn to the incriminated officer, who with his family was in dire distress, and that in referring to the Treasury Solicitor's opinion, he did no more than refer to what was an open secret in the department. The authorities thereupon required him to name the other officers who had been concerned with him in writing the letter complained of, and this Mr. Bockett declined to do. One of these officials was within a few months of retirement, and Mr. Bockett shrank from making any statement that might imperil his pension. Mr. Bockett was given five days to reconsider his decision, and at the end of that time respectfully reiterated his refusal, and was immediately suspended.

On March 11th Mr. Bockett wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, from which we take the following:—

> I understand the immediate cause of my suspension was my disinclination to give the names of the men from whom I learned that Mr. C——'s case had been under consideration by the Treasury Solicitor. The information was given to me in a casual manner without any thought on the part of my informants that they were disclosing any official secret. I have given most careful and anxious consideration to the suggestion that I should disclose the names of my informants, but desirous as I am of complying with the request, I feel myself unable to do so, as the natural consequence of such a disclosure would be to place these two men in the same position as that in which I now find myself, and this my honour forbids me doing.

Mr. Bockett also wrote to his Departmental Chief, Colonel Sir Edward Raban, referring to his letter to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and asking him to recommend it to favourable consideration. On March 13th he received a reply from Mr. F. W. Kite, writing for the Director of Works, from which we take the following:—

> I have to inform you that after further consideration of your case, it has been decided to terminate your engagement under the Admiralty. I therefore give you notice as required by the terms of your appointment, dated February 14th, 1900, No. 1156–1205, that your services will not be required after the expiration of three months from the date of the receipt hereof.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Bockett asked that the gratuity based upon a fifteen years' continuous "temporary service" in the Admiralty might be awarded to him.

In reply Mr. Sims, writing for the Director of Works, informed Mr. Bockett that:

> The matter of the gratuity is under consideration.

In a letter of April 30th, Mr. C. J. Thomas informed Mr. Bockett that:—

> Having regard to the circumstances of your dismissal my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have no power to award you a gratuity for your services under the Admiralty.

And there the matter stands. Mr. Bockett wrote to Dr. Macnamara, the present Secretary of the Admiralty, but that gentleman did not see his way to interfere. He then communicated with Sir William Bull, the member for the constituency in which Mr. Bockett lives, who, with characteristic kindness, put a question in the House of Commons to Dr. Macnamara, who informed him that:—

> The circumstances of the case in question have been already fully investigated, and it is not considered necessary to hold a further enquiry.

But the only enquiry that has been held is an enquiry at which Mr. Bockett was not allowed to be present. No doubt Mr. Bockett was ill-advised in drafting the letter which his incriminated colleague desired to present to the Lords of the Admiralty. Civil servants ought not to take part in quarrels between their official chiefs and subordinates. It may be, too, that Mr. Bockett acted improperly in referring to the opinion of the Treasury Solicitor, even though that opinion was common knowledge in the department. But we have to make two observations upon these points. First, the letter complained of was signed not by Mr. Bockett, but by the person directly concerned, and for his official superiors to go behind the letter and to seek out the persons who inspired it is, to say the least, conduct of a very questionable kind. Next, as to the reference to the Treasury Solicitor, Mr. Bockett might have got off with a reprimand if he had consented to disclose the names of those who were parties to his indiscretion. He refused, knowing well the consequences of refusal, and that was very honourable conduct that ought to have weighed, as we cannot help thinking, with his official superiors. But over and above these points we contend that every man who is in the King's service, whether he be what is technically known as a "temporary" servant or not, has a right to open enquiry and to an opportunity of defending himself when a charge is brought against him. In Mr. Bockett's case this right was refused, and a person who has served the State blamelessly for sixteen of the best years of his life, suddenly finds himself thrown upon the world for an offence which at the worst was not a very culpable indiscretion. We cannot help thinking that less than justice has been done to Mr. Bockett, and although we know how hopeless it is to expect a public department to admit its error, we give publicity to this case in the hope, not that it will be of direct service to Mr. Bockett himself, but that it may be the means of inducing the department to alter its method of procedure, and to give members of the Service the opportunity of full reply to any charges that may be brought against them. Only in this way can a public servant be confident that his official position will not be suddenly taken from him, and ruin be brought to him and his upon grounds that could not be maintained if he had the opportunity of inquiry and unfettered defence.

A HUSHED-UP MUTINY.

MR. HALDANE'S DENIAL.

Many of our readers will remember that in our issue of May 9th last, and under the title of "The Scandal of the 5th Lancers. Mutiny Condoned," we directed attention to the case of "A" Squadron of that regiment, which for two consecutive days was in open mutiny—mutiny condoned by the Commanding Officer, and apparently not reported to the higher authorities. Since then the matter has been referred to in Parliament more than once, and on June 23rd Mr. Haldane was questioned again upon it. Mr. Roberts asked the Secretary of State for War whether any report had reached the War Office as to "the alleged mutiny in Squadron 'A' of the 5th Lancers at Colchester." Mr. Haldane replied that no such report had reached the War Office. We can well believe it. The Secretary of State's answer confirms our allegation, namely, that the higher authorities were not made acquainted with this mutiny, and the way in which it was dealt with. But Mr. Roberts put another question, and question and answer were as below:—

"Will you inquire?" asked Mr. Roberts.

"No, Sir," replied Mr. Haldane; "if it (that is the mutiny) had occurred it would have been reported."

Here Mr. Haldane is not content to say that there is no record of the mutiny at the War Office, he goes on to repel with warmth the need for inquiry, and to affirm that there cannot have been a mutiny because it was not reported.

It might well be that, upon the spur of the moment, a Secretary of State for War might make that answer. The incident was very unusual. It seems to be impossible in a well-disciplined force, and the Secretary of State might well be excused for assuming that it was a mere newspaper tale, or club chatter, this yarn about the mutiny and the rest. But this explanation is not open to Mr. Haldane. It was not the first time that he was questioned about the affair. His attention had already been called to the case. Presumably, therefore, he had inquired into the matter, and if he inquired into it, then assuredly those who obtained the information submitted to him must have deliberately misled him. Mr. Haldane says there was no mutiny of "A" Squadron of the 5th Lancers at Colchester in 1904. We have before us as we write the letter of an officer of the regiment, in which he says that our description of the affair was correct in every particular, and to clinch this statement we give below the sworn declarations of two of the men, one of them a non-commissioned officer, who took part in the mutiny. The first is from Mr. F. Morgan, who at the time of the mutiny was a private in the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. This is what he says:—

> I remember distinctly on a certain day in March, 1904, that some 100 men of "A" Squadron were absent from evening stable parade, and, to the best of my knowledge, none of the men were ever brought up to orderly room. There were too many of them in it. It was all hushed up.

The second declaration is made by Mr. G. D. Kendall, late corporal "A" Squadron 5th Royal Irish Lancers. It runs:—

> On a certain day in the month of March, 1904, while stationed at Colchester, I remember distinctly that 89 men were absent from musketry parade at 2 p.m. Sergeant Rogers reported these men to Major Graham. The same evening a great number of men were absent from evening stable parade. Major Graham was on parade. He addressed the men who were present. He formed up the men in the ranks and addressed them. The men jeered at him and laughed in his face. The whole affair was hushed up.
>
> I remember very well a number of men mounting their horses and riding out of barracks contrary to all orders. None of these men were ever brought to orderly room or punished.

And this from the letter of a man serving in "A" Squadron at the time of the Mutiny.

> A squadron, 5th Lancers, mutinied during our stay at Colchester, and many other things happened to the prejudice of good order and military discipline whilst I was stationed there. I wish to state that I know all the officers who were placed on half pay, and in my opinion they were worthy of their cloth and position; but they were badly governed by one who was temporarily in command, and finally took over supreme command, of the regiment (at present stationed in York). Should it be necessary, I will detail what happened, how it originated, and what took place the two days they were out at Wivenhoe. Perhaps the public would be surprised if they knew how one man can ruin a whole regiment and escape the punishment he justly deserves.

Mr. Haldane will forgive us for saying that he should see to it that those whose duty it is to supply him with the material for his replies to the questions put to him in the House of Commons do not mislead him as he has been misled in this matter.

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THE HURLY BURLY.

By THEODORE DAHLE.

LONGSHOT ASPECTS OF KING SOLOMON'S MINES.

Probably you know Smith, and Jones, and Robinson. Now I wish you to know Brown, Mr. James Brown—Good Old Jim, as he informs me they call him in Birmingham. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Brown. . . . Mr. Brown, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I must tell you that my own acquaintance with Mr. Brown is not of long standing. I had heard the name of Brown before, and I had no reason to doubt that somewhere in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth, there was such a person; but until one fine morning the postman brought me a sheaf of beautiful and costly literature unsolicited, unexpected, and free of charge, I was not aware that Jim was of the land of Joe.

I have examined the various literary works of Mr. Brown, and it appears to me that they are of high merit. He has a ready command of language, a rich and lively imagination, a fertile, fervid, and vivid gift of form and rhythm, a dramatic sense of plot, and other literary qualities and graces which it is unnecessary for me to elaborate. His introductory circular is headed "James Brown, England's Champion Winner-Finder." I thought in my darkness that all the Champion Winner-Finders were commissioned by the ha'penny evening papers. Now I know that I am wrong. The medal, the bun, the cake, and the biscuit go to Brown.

"Dear Sir," says Mr. Brown, "In presenting this circular to you, I shall take the liberty of waiving all the rules of etiquette, and denounce you as a hunter of the Almighty Dollar." Mr. Brown will excuse me, but he begins by taking the wrong turning. I am not a hunter of any specimens of the American coinage whatever. My path is along the higher orbits of literary art. My aim is to uplift the race. But when Mr. Brown adds that "you, like everyone else, are on the look out for the means of increasing your income with the least possible risk," he gets nearer home. And to the end that I may increase my income with the least possible risk, he courteously invites me to send him £2 per week for two-horse wires, or £25 per week for all-day wires.

Though I do not perceive any connection between literature and the trade in horses, or even the trade in asses, I am open to conviction. But let me say at once that to me the horse is a four-legged animal of slow and uncertain movement. For the investment of literary profits, therefore, it has not been my habit to regard this animal as a gilt-edged investment. Yet I am bound to consider any financial scheme which seeks to place it in the list of trustee securities, more especially when the scheme is presented to my notice by a gentleman of the talents and philanthropic instincts of Mr. Brown, who puts it forward with lucidity and charm.

"Do you wish," he asks, "to attain fortune by your own perseverance in a Method that is infallible? If so, mention the mystic words, spring the coin, and the Method is at your service." Apparently the anonymous correspondent who induced the postman to present me with Mr. Brown's varied publications sprung the coin as requested, because I find in the parcel a prettily decorated work entitled "James Brown's Longshot Method. Price £5 5s." I therefore lift the tome with reverence, speak of it with bated breath and whisp'ring humbleness, and offer up a prayer that it may become a power for good in the land I love.

The Infallible Method by which I am to make my fortune is revealed to me in this work in a striking gospel. "Support all distinct second, third, and fourth favourites," says the gifted author, "missing all first favourites. Really, if you miss the first favourites, the method amounts to supporting the next three horses in the betting." The best way to support them does not appear to be to prop them up while they run, as I should have supposed. You support them by supporting Mr. Brown. That is to say, if you wish to render £5 or £10 worth of support to these animals, you remit the money to Mr. Brown. If any of those you have supported happen to run faster than those you haven't, Mr. Brown presents you with the fortune. On the other hand, if those you haven't supported run faster than those you have, you present Mr. Brown with the money.

The unconquerable enthusiasm of Mr. Brown for his Method does not surprise me. As he says, "it is not for a week or a season, but a method that will last a lifetime, and can be worked either on the flat or over hurdles." I am not sufficiently conversant with hurdles to know whether it can be worked over them or not, but undoubtedly Mr. Brown is justified in his belief that it can be worked on the flat, and that he is the right man to do it. "Grant me a consistent following," he says, in a charming outburst of the noblest poesy," and I guarantee to reveal a treasure chamber equal to the famous King Solomon's mines." With all the pleasure in the world I grant him the consistent following if he will work it exclusively on the flat. He is at the wrong address, however, when he knocks at my door. He should try a timber yard or a lunatic asylum.

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EXTRA PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

(SPECIALLY MIS-REPORTED BY RICHARD MORTON.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.

There being quite half-a-dozen Peers present in the Chamber, some of them almost awake, the Lord Chancellor settled on a cosy corner of the Woolsack at a quarter past four o'clock.

EDUCATION AT PONDER'S END.

Viscount HALIFAX asked the President of the Council if he considered the weather-cock on the roof of the school at Ponder's End as contributory to the moral discipline of the scholars, and whether it might not be regarded as an instance of waywardness and instability of character. In view of the increased population and the price of meat, was it not a cruel burden on the rates?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH had no personal knowledge of the matter, his information being derived from the Board of Education, where nothing was known of the subject.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE asked what arrangements, if any, had been made for the reception of the Ram Jam of Tobi Jhugg.

The Earl of CREWE said he had no official information on the subject, neither had he any private knowledge.

Viscount KNUTSFORD asked, as the Ram Jam arrived next week, whether more complete details could not be obtained?

The Earl of CREWE asked the noble lord to repeat his question in a month's time.

HOURS OF WORK BILL.

Lord AVEBURY moved the second reading. His lordship said that man laboured too much and too often. Consider the lilies of the field; they toil not neither do they spin, yet the British workman in his Sunday clothes could not hold a candle to them if we were to look upon personal adornment as a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. This Bill would alter all that. It provided for the closing of all shops at twelve noon, except the Stores, where he bought his own things. No railway trains should run between sunrise and sundown, which would materially shorten the hours of the over-worked signalman. Hair-dressers were to be debarred from Sunday opening, but could remain open on any one other day of the week on receiving a special permit from the County Council. Tobacconists were not to supply anybody under the age of forty with cigarettes, jujubes, or chewing gum. His object was to make more idleness imperative, for the strength of the nation was being sapped by toil and by sordid shopkeepers who wanted to carry on business according to their own ideas.

The House having been empty from the moment the noble lord got up, the second reading was agreed to.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, feeling sleepy, yawned, and said he thought he would pop off to the club.

The House rose at five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the floor at a quarter to three o'clock.

THE PORT OF LONDON.

Sir H. KIMBER asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a return showing the value of the Port of London, in view of the purchase of the docks.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said the value of the port of London depended on its purity. It should be clear, not muddy, and there was such a thing as the beeswing to be considered. The purchase of dock glasses was to be encouraged, as you got more for your money, but, as a life-long teetotaler, he could not recommend the port of London, which was made of bark, logwood, and other adulterants.

HEALTH OF MOTOR MEN.

Mr. BYLES asked the President of the Board of Trade if he would consider the necessity of a periodical compulsory medical examination of motor drivers, to eliminate the danger of such men sleeping at their post.

Mr. CHURCHILL: A concatenation of circumstances might conceivably result in the lassitude of a langourous day leading to a state of somnolence and drowsiness in the case of an individual with soporific tendencies, but the trend of things fell short of conveying to his intelligence the urgent need of autocratic interference with the liberty of the subject at such a vital juncture. The man who slept at his post was no hero, and, while he had no personal predilection for heroes, he should like to ask his honourable friend, had he ever caught a weasel asleep?

Mr. BYLES: Arising out of that reply, what is the answer to my question?

Mr. CHURCHILL: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. BELLAIRS: Then why couldn't you say so at first?

Mr. CHURCHILL: The gift of speech is conferred upon a Ministes of the Crown to the end that he may procrastinate the expression of his opinions.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Mr. BIRRELL moved the second reading for this occasion only. It was a delicate question, this matter of the land in Ireland, for the land there was mainly bog, in which the most astute of Ministers might flounder and fall. It behoved them, therefore, to walk warily and to look before they leapt. One required to approach such matters with an open mind, also, in dealing with Ireland, with an open pocket. A primrose by the river's brim was but a primrose to him, and in saying that he meant no disrespect to the noble lord who graced another place. The peasantry appealed to him as a picturesque and amiable class, and the poets of ages yet unborn would lisp in deathless numbers this modest attempt to provide the greatest good for the greatest number. Having so lucidly explained the principles of his measure, he would leave it to the good sense of the House to aid him in settling the Irish question once and for all.

Mr. T. HEALY opposed the Bill root and branch and tooth and nail, as well as heel and toe. It was but another sample of patchwork iniquity, fathered and fostered by the same heartless oppressors who had machined the malignant methods of bygone administrations whose fate should warn others of the inevitable doom that relentlessly awaited them.

Mr. CROOKS said the Bill was an honest attempt to procure the land of the people for the people by forcibly taking it away from those to whom it legally belonged. Therefore, it had his entire sympathy, and he only wished it went further and applied to England as well as to what had been termed the Sister Isle. Woolwich was similar to Ireland; there were marshes in both places, for he understood a bog and a marsh were the same thing. The soil belonged to the people, and down in Poplar, where he came from, they were very fond of the soil. Why should they be robbed of their inalienable birthright?

Mr. H. CHAPLIN desired to point out, or perhaps he might say to indicate, the inaccuracies, or he would term them the mistakes, the glaring mistakes of this measure. If he might be allowed to say so, if he were permitted to say so, this Bill was a colossal error, a large mistake. He would almost go so far as to say it was a gigantic mistake It did nothing to lessen the evils which were said to exist and he did not believe they did exist, except in the imagination of hon. gentlemen opposite. Therefore the proper remedy for them was not a Bill of this character, or he would say want of character, but in some well-conceived and carefully executed scheme of Tariff Reform. Give him and his friends a free hand and he would promise them, he would even go so far as to guarantee them, a real solution of the difficulties which he thought did not exist, which he believed did not exist, and which he was sure did not exist. Then, and not until then, would the country be free of its intolerable burden and the flag of which we were all so proud would once more unfold its glorious colours over the happy heads of a great and enlightened nation.

Mr. GLADSTONE, replying on behalf of the Government, said it was evident from the tone of the speeches to which they had listened that this important measure did not meet with that universal and unqualified support to which its sponsors felt it was indubitably entitled. Even the Irish party had some objection to it, while Mr. Chaplin had voiced the opinions of his friends in his usual explicit and straightforward manner. The Government were still positive that their Bill was absolutely necessary; it was perfect in every detail, and great injustice would be perpetuated if it failed to become part of the law of the land. In these circumstances, therefore, nothing remained for him to do except announce that the Bill would be withdrawn, in deference to the expressed opinion of that House. It would not be proceeded with that session, but it was possible that next year the Government would introduce a similar measure on totally different lines.

The House then adjourned, and some of the Members went straight home.

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£59,550	... ...	20 weeks ago	£72,430	... ...	10 weeks ago
£60,760	... ...	19 weeks ago	£73,880	... ...	9 weeks ago
£61,980	... ...	18 weeks ago	£75,260	... ...	8 weeks ago
£63,220	... ...	17 weeks ago	£76,790	... ...	7 weeks ago
£64,360	... ...	16 weeks ago	£78,470	... ...	6 weeks ago
£65,440	... ...	15 weeks ago	£81,950	... .	5 weeks ago
£66,980	... ...	14 weeks ago	£85,870	... ...	4 weeks ago
£68,355	... ...	13 weeks ago	£88,720	... ...	3 weeks ago
£69,720	... ...	12 weeks ago	£92,630	....	2 weeks ago
£71,660	... ...	11 weeks ago	£95,120	... ...	Last week

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Sir,—Please send me (gratis and post free) your full terms of business, your booklet entitled, "The Science of Money-Making," copy of your Chartered Accountants' Certificate, and a list of separate Cheques aggregating nearly £100,000 paid to Speculators who have recently followed your advice. Also copy of your Review containing latest Recommendation for a quick rise.

NAME.....
(Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

ADDRESS.....
(Please write distinctly.)

J. B. 1908.

Date.....

OPEN LETTERS AND POST-CARDS.

To Lord Northcliffe, Carmelite House, London.

DEAR ALF,—I do not suppose you are responsible for everything which goes into your multifarious papers, but it is a startling commentary on the general methods with which most of them are conducted that whilst your *Manchester Courier* published a particularly outrageous libel upon Mr. Winston Churchill when he was fighting his bye-election in Manchester, it declined to publish an apology during the election. Your editor was so anxious that Mr. Churchill's opponents should have the political advantages of the libellous lie that he let it run uncontradicted. Now that the election is over, and he is brought to book by an action, he runs away (just as your other editor of the *Mail* ran away from Mr. Lever in the affair of the soap), makes humble apology, and consents to pay £300 damages, which Mr. Churchill has handed to Manchester charities. Now, this isn't cricket, my dear Alfred, and you know it isn't. It isn't even fair skittles. Whatever game you call it, there is no question that it is played in a dirty way with dirty hands. Surely it is possible for you to insist that your editors should own up and apologise, when they know they are in the wrong? This will save your pocket, and will do no harm whatever to your credit. Besides, it is the way of honourable men. There cannot be one code of honour for gentlemen and another for editors. Remember what I used to tell you in the old days, when, with all the world before us, we dreamed and planned those big ideas of newspaper and publishing combines, which, through the Hansard Union, nearly landed me in gaol, and, through the Amalgamated Press, landed you in the House of Lords. It was rough luck on you—for you can never get out.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., President Board of Trade.

DEAR WINSTON,—The little birds whisper to me that the engagement of another Cabinet Minister is to be announced shortly. They add that the lady is young, handsome, and accomplished, and that she helped to fight the good fight for you in Dundee as well as in Manchester. If all this is true, I congratulate you heartily. You are too good a fellow, and have too big a destiny to pass your life in blessed singleness. So get the lady to name the happy day—and good luck to you both.

JOHN BULL.

To Major Malcolm, Chief Constable of Hull.

MY DEAR MAJOR,—You seem to think that Hull is a Sunday School and that you are the superintendent. Do get that idea out of your martial bosom. Try to understand that Hull contains full-grown men and full-grown women, who don't pay you your salary to lead them in either hymns or prayer. On the other hand, pray consider yourself merely a glorified policeman, and do your duty in that official sphere of life in which it has pleased the Hull City Council to call you. The reason for this advice is that I see you have been putting the cat among the pigeons again. You well know how the trouble arose. Recently the proprietor of a popular local café applied for permission to alter his premises with a view to improve the ventilation and accommodation. That café is patronised by many of Hull's prominent citizens, who take their wives and daughters there to enjoy music and refreshment. The ground of your objection was that the proprietor permitted the presence of women while music was being played. You did not make the suggestion that he harboured or encouraged women of an improper character. As a matter of fact, you stated that your could make no complaint on that head. Apparently, therefore, your objection was that the association of respectable women with café music would tend to public immorality. Naturally, that inference is hotly repudiated in Hull as an insult, and your opposition to the structural alterations of a good-class business regarded as puritanical and unreasonable. I see the application stands adjourned, and the real purport of these presents is to ask you to stand adjourned also. Don't think for a moment that I object to your giving temperance addresses in chapels and presenting your brother Scot, the stipendiary magistrate, with whisky decanters on the occasion of his marriage; for the decanters will probably do more good to the stipendiary than the temperance addresses will do to anybody else. Nor do I mind your takin' a wee drapple yoursel'. But when I recall that you were one of the private champagne party in the café where you object to the presence of ladies while the music is playing, and when I recall, further, that two of the guests on that sparkling occasion were ladies, I marvel at your puritanical peculiarities. It is a good thing for man to make the best of both worlds, Major, but it isn't official etiquette for a Chief Constable to put on a surplice and a fool's cap while on duty. You may now resume your duties, and don't let me have occasion to comb your hair again.

JOHN BULL.

To R. Marshall, Esq., Deputy Coroner, Dudley.

MY DEAR MAN,—Hoity toity and tut tut. Do pray keep your hair on. Dr. Whitworth, of the Guest Hospital, having apologised for disobeying a subpœna to your court, explaining that his attendance was necessary at a serious operation in the theatre of the hospital, and that when the operation was over you had adjourned the inquiry at which his attendance was required, why make a fuss and throw your weight about? "It was most laudable," you told him, "that you should make an attempt to save life, but the important point is that you were summoned to attend this inquest by command of the King, because by virtue of the office I hold I represent the King, and Guest Hospital or no Guest Hospital, operation or no operation, you should have obeyed the summons. Your duties at the Guest Hospital must be subservient to a command of the King."

Go to, my good sir. The King would have been a great deal more reasonable in the circumstances than you were; because he is more sensible and more considerate. Even the Lord Chief Justice would not have inflated himself in the ridiculous way you did. I know there is a tendency among doctors to hold coroners, to say nothing of mere deputy coroners, at naught. But in this instance there is no reason to suppose that Dr. Whitworth started an operation on somebody else to mark his disrespect for your Majesty (per proxy) and your Majesty's distinguished office; whilst as to his dropping his tools when half-way through with it in order to attend your court—well, pray excuse my remarking once more, hoity toity and tut tut. Dr. Whitworth should have sent you a note or a telegram explaining that for the moment it was of more importance that he should try to save a live man than to give evidence about a dead one. That was a courtesy due to you, but perhaps he did not think of it. Anyhow, my good man, you made much ado about infinitely little, and I strongly advise you to get rid of some of your starch and stuffing.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. T. W. Russell, P.C., M.P.

MY DEAR T. W.,—I am gratified to find your name in the list of Birthday Honours. I suppose, as things go, you deserve it. You have been a strenuous politician of sorts all your days, and, above all, you don't take intoxicating refreshment. You have also been a member of a Unionist Government, and now hold, in a Liberal one, the distinguished position of Vice-President of the Irish Board of Agriculture, where you have acquired a knowledge of potatoes, and other Hibernian vegetables, second to none in that disthrisful land.

I now perceive that you have a Bill before the House to be cited as the "Bee Pest Prevention (Ireland) Act, 1908," the object being to prevent the spread of Bee Pest or Foul Brood in Ireland, by the notification, inspection, and destruction by the local authority of infected bees, or articles or appliances used in the keeping of the same. No doubt you will carefully enlighten some of us who know nothing of bees, except their sting, what precisely it is that is troubling the bees of your emerald isle, for none of us is anxious to do another injustice to Ireland by refusing consent to any legislative enactment which will tend to their earthly welfare.

Meanwhile I perceive in your Bee Bill another argument for Home Rule. Here is a purely Irish question. It is not a matter of Imperial concern; and yet the vast intellect and the precious time of Parliament must be formally devoted to Irish bees and their brood. Why should not the Irish people be allowed to administer the affairs of everything Irish which happens to be going—including bees and whisky? One of these days, I suppose, you will be introducing in the House a Bill for the prevention of Foul Brood in pigs, hens, and other Irish goods. If your Bill isn't a joke it is a satire, and I can perceive the Irish members supporting it with all their native eloquence. For my part, if I can do anything to assist your solicitude for these distressed Hibernian insects, either by voting to quarantine 'em, medically examine 'em, or kill 'em—or, by keeping 'em out of your bonnet—pray command me.

JOHN BULL.

A WEEDY HARVEST.

FARMER ASQUITH: "What do you think of my hay crop?"
FARMER BULL: "Not bad, but you ought not to have allowed those weeds to grow."

IN THE CITY.

THE BRITISH TEA TABLE COMPANY.

Scandalous Condition of Affairs.

In our issue of February 29th last we directed attention to the very unsatisfactory position of this company and to the probability of bad becoming worse. We predicted that the loss would not be less than £16,000, and we regret to say that the prediction has been almost fulfilled. The accounts, made up to March 31st, which have usually been out in the first week in May, have not as yet been presented for the past year, nor does anybody seem to know when they will be, but we are in a position to say that the loss upon the year's trading has been, in round figures, £14,292. As to the financial position of the company, it has some £16,000 on deposit. Of this about £8,000 will be required to pay the rent of the depots for the past three months, and unless things mend, of which there is small likelihood, the end of September will see the company with funds exhausted.

In our article of February 29th, we said that a profit of some £500 or £600 had been made for the two months ended May. At the meeting held on May 16th, the then chairman, Mr. J. P. Hurst, told the meeting that "they had reduced the amount of debt in the past year by redeeming £7,200, and we are considering whether next Michaelmas we should give notice to redeem £14,400 instead of £7,200," but the shareholders demanded a Committee of Investigation, and upon its being granted the then directors resigned, and the present Board took over at the beginning of June. In the ten months of the past year for which they are responsible they not only did not quicken the redemption of debentures (they have only used £1,000 for that purpose), when they took over the business the company was making some hundreds a month profit, it has since made continuous losses. In the first six months of the past financial year, which included the profit made on the first two months, under the old management, the loss amounted to nearly £3,600, and in the second six months it was over £10,000. As compared with the corresponding period of last year the receipts have fallen several hundreds per week, and at the present time the company is making a loss not far short of £20,000 per annum. These facts speak for themselves. The present board were appointed with the object of arranging an amalgamation with Mr. Pearce. When we referred to this Company last we said that "the only chance is amalgamation with the J.P. Restaurants." That is much more obvious now than it was then. It is amalgamation or liquidation.

The explanation of this disastrous change in the position of the company is not far to seek, and it may be summed up in a sentence by saying that it is due to gross mismanagement. The present directors have no knowledge whatever of the catering business. The chairman, the Rev. Robert Venables Greene, who is the moving spirit in the concern, is a retired missionary. The only experience of a similar concern obtained by the General Manager, Mr. C. R. W Offen, was in 1905, when for five weeks he acted as a Window Inspector to the A.B.C. He is Warden of the Bloomsbury Club, Queen's Square, and the greater part of his time is taken up in looking after the affairs of that institution. There is hardly a capable buyer in the concern, which means that thousands of pounds are lost through bad buying. Take vegetables and fruit: We are assured that the company is paying from 33 per cent. to 50 per cent. more than its competitors in trade. Recently an order was given by the management for 100 dozen waitresses' aprons at 10s. 6d. per dozen. Equally good ones could have been bought from the well-known firm of Leckie and Co. at 7s. 9d. per dozen. Before the appointment of the present directors it was the rule to take tenders for the supply of flour. This has been changed and the orders are now given without competition to a Deptford company, who also receive the special favour of a cheque accompanying their order. The cashier's brougham required repairs and was sent to a friend of one of the directors—a country blacksmith at a village some twenty miles from London. As to the food supplied to customers, a late superintendent tells us that when he was with the company he made frequent complaints of the inferior food that was being sent into the depots, such as fish, flour, eggs, and butter, but his representations were disregarded.

It is pretty evident from the facts stated above that the company must soon reconstruct, unless it is to die. The public has lost faith in the concern, and deservedly so. Lyons' have built up an enormous and most prosperous business by giving the public full value for their money. The present management of the British Tea Table Company seems to be going on directly opposite lines. How little it deserves to win back custom to the company will be gathered from the statement we publish below. It is a sworn declaration from a respectable man who recently held a responsible position in the company. He says:—

> (1) That from October, 1906, until December, 1907, I was ——— of the British Tea Table Co., Ltd., and whilst in that position I became aware that orders had been given to the chefs at the various depots that they must save all the pieces left by customers on their plates, and these were to be used for the purpose of making entrées, such as "Vienna steaks" and so on, and for that purpose each depot was supplied with a mincing machine. Accordingly this was done.
>
> (2) That in the past the practice was to collect this refuse and, as a rule, it was given to the boys at the shops, as perquisites, they disposing of it to fat merchants.
>
> (3) That several of the staff upon hearing that these orders had been given by the General Manager, protested.
>
> (4) That at a Board Meeting, at which I was present, I spoke about this matter, and was instructed to make arrangements to prevent the girls going into the kitchen so that "they should not see behind the scenes."

We challenge the directors to deny the truth of these allegations, which, we may add, are confirmed by other evidence in our possession.

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY.

Last week we gave some correspondence between an outside broker and a reader of JOHN BULL, which resulted in the latter losing all the money he had risked. Another reader sends us a somewhat similar batch of correspondence with other land sharks. Our correspondent was invited by these people to join in a special stock operation, the shares in which were £5 each. Our correspondent has been in the habit of receiving similar invitations for many years. As he tells us they had always angled for him in vain, but at last they hit upon the psychological moment, and, as he says, "he fell." In response to their last recommendation, he sent them £5 to pay for one share, and they acknowledged it in a letter dated March 11th.

On March 13th, our correspondent received the following telegram:—

> Only 19 shares left American Rails operation. Confidently recommend you secure these or some. Feel certain successful result. Market favourable for operating. Reply immediately if you take whole or part.

Observe the artfulness of the wire. "Only 19 shares left." Nineteen times five is 95, and our correspondent's original £5 made £100. "Like a fool," as he puts it, he sent another fiver for a second share, and on March 17th he got the following letter:—

> We beg to report that the special stock operation in which you are interested has been opened this day.

On March 28th, our correspondent was informed that the stock upon which the brokers were supposed to be operating, namely, Denvers, "shows a good, advancing, tendency and we accordingly purpose continuing the operation for the present in the interest of all subscribers." As a matter of fact, Denvers had gone up 2 points, and our correspondent had written the firm on March 27th to sell. This instruction they disregarded, and on April 1st—a very appropriate date—they wrote as follows to our correspondent:—

> In consequence of the severe and wholly unexpected fall which has taken place to-day in prices of all descriptions of American Railroad securities, in which, unfortunately, Denvers have also participated to a marked extent, the margin of 1 per cent. in respect of the above deal has, we extremely regret to report, become exhausted.

Our correspondent wrote in reply a letter in which, as he says, he exhausted the vocabulary of vituperation. But rogues of this kind have the hide of a rhinoceros, and a day or two afterwards they were trying to persuade him to risk more money. Needless to say, they did not succeed.

THE CITY AND WESTMINSTER EXCHANGE, LIMITED.—Stock and Share Dealers, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W. No Commission. Loss Limited. Profit Unlimited. All payments made directly bargain closed. Write at once for pamphlet, which will be sent post free on mentioning this paper. Telephone Nos., 267 Westminster, 7765 Gerrard. Telegraphic address, "Stockwork," London.—ADVT.

THE ECONOMIC BANK, LTD.

We have before us the statement of the liquidator of the Economic Bank, Ltd., who now seeks release. The assets were estimated to produce according to the company's statement, £14,884 9s. 8d. They actually produced £3,267 15s. 3d. The debt due to the bank from the Financial and Commercial Bank, Ltd., amounted to £74,879, and was estimated, according to the statement of affairs, to realise £12,705. The winding-up proceedings of the Financial and Commercial Bank have been completed, and the assets realised have not been sufficient to pay the costs and expenses of the liquidation. Of the £3,267 15s. 3d. actually realized by the liquidator of the Economic Bank, costs and charges took £1,663 11s. 9d, a first and final dividend of 8d. in the £ absorbed £1,524 7s. 6d., and a balance of £79 16s., is allocated to cover solicitors' costs, not yet taxed, and closing expenses.

ALLSOPP'S.

We gather that important developments are pending in connection with this Company, and that a determined effort is to be made to place the undertaking on a sounder footing. We await the publication of details before committing ourselves to any expression of opinion.

WARING AND GILLOW.

The Report and Accounts are on the point of completion, and will, we believe, be issued during the next fortnight. The general opinion is that there will be a new debenture issue in order to provide the necessary funds for dealing with the requirements of the business.

WALDORF HOTEL.

The Company is doing well, takings amounting to about £4,000 a week, and we understand that a public issue of shares will shortly be made. Waring's are largely interested in the concern, and a successful issue should, of course, considerably relieve the financial pressure under which that company is labouring.

ARNOLD AND BUTLER.—A WARNING!

These swindlers are still at it. Their fraudulent circulars are being sent to the unwary and, we regret to say, certain papers are accepting their misleading and lying advertisements. We warn any of our readers who may receive communications from the rogues, to avoid being ensnared into their clutches. They are dead wrong 'uns, and we hope they will shortly be in gaol.

"JOHN BULL."

In view of the phenomenal success of this journal, it is contemplated to transfer the undertaking to a public company, but we are unable at present to give any definite particulars. All we can say is that preferential consideration will be given to (1) the publishing trade, to whom we are so greatly indebted for our success, and (2) our readers. More anon.

NEW ISSUE.

Lipton, Ltd., invite the public to subscribe £250,000 Ordinary shares at £1 5s. each. The record of the Company is highly satisfactory. Incorporated in March, 1898, the net profits since that time, after providing £207,867 for depreciation, have been £1,688,493, or an average of £168,893 per annum, out of which has been paid £497,063 to Preference shareholders, and £828,369 to ordinary shareholders, the dividend on the Ordinary shares for the past ten years having averaged nearly 8½ per cent. per annum. The total reserves of the Company now stand at £311,666, to which will be added the premium on the present issue less expenses. Much has been done in the way of refitting and enlarging branches and adding machinery and plant to the stores and warehouses, improvements and additions the benefit of which the Company may reasonably expect to reap in the years to come. We can safely recommend these shares to our readers.

Debenture Interest Warrants for the half-year ended June 30th, 1908, were posted to the Debenture-holders of Rudge-Whitworth, Limited, on the 1st inst.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

CHAS. COVENTRY AND COMPANY.—W. C. B. (Southampton).—If the facts are as you state, then you have been badly treated, but, as to that, we have only your own statement, and it is impossible to arrive at an opinion worth having without hearing the other side. Moreover, if you could substantiate all your allegations, you would still be faced by the Gaming Act, which we have little doubt would be pleaded against you in bar of liability.

BOOKKEEPERS REQUIRED to enter Special Championship Competition, see this month's issue of "Bookkeepers' Record," or write direct to Secretary, Accountants' Publishing Co., Ltd., 88, Chancery Lane, W.C., for copy, 2½d. post free.—[ADVT.]

PIONEER LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—T. W. (Bristol).—Your case is a hard one, but we do not see how we are to help you. Whatever the explanation, the fact remains that you failed to pay your premium when it became due, and that the policy therefore lapsed. Subject to rules of the company to the contrary, and you mention none, your rights in it ceased, and anything it might be induced to do in the way of reinstating you would be a matter of grace rather than of right. The company have refused to go beyond their legal obligation, and, however much one may regret it, under the circumstances, we do not see how their action can be challenged.

AN INSURANCE COMPANY.—W. (Glasgow).—We should prefer another selection.

S.E. AFRICA, LIMITED.—A. A. B. (Trieste).—We cannot advise it.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—J. H. (Dundee).—We think you had better hold to the terms of your contract as it stands.

INSURANCE POLICY.—W. P. (Glasgow).—The Legal and General would be as good as any for your purpose.

BRITISH UNITED ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—H. I. L. (Uttoxeter).—We are obliged to you for the information contained in your letter, and shall be further obliged if you will let us know the result of the execution.

AUTHORISED INTEREST.—A. G. B. (Manchester).—There is no specific interest laid down by law. If the terms are "harsh and unconscionable" in the opinion of the judge, they may be altered to the relief of the borrower.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS.—W. J. M. (Chiswick).—The 6 per cent. preference shares at 23s. 6d. represent a sound investment.

RIGHT TO DIVIDEND.—RICARDO (Clapham).—Your question is unintelligible. How can you have any right to the dividend of these cumulative preference shares if it has been paid in the ordinary way year by year? The word "cumulative" seems to have misled you. If no dividend had been paid for these ten years, then the dividend due on the cumulative preference shares would have to be satisfied before the ordinary shares got anything. But, since the dividends have been paid, the liability is discharged.

SUNDRY SHARES.—JOHULL (Brockley).—Of the shares you name we should prefer Nos. 2, 5, 6, and 7.

MAXIM'S, LIMITED.—OLD SAUL (Kentish Town).—We should hold them for the present.

TWO MINING SHARES.—B. W. (Brighton).—They would be very speculative purchases, but of the two we prefer No. 1.

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEFS MINES.—PALATINE (Lancaster).—You had better hold them for the present. We cannot advise you to send any money to the person whose circular you enclose.

EL ORO'S.—NELSON (Stanhope Street).—We think them a fair speculative purchase.

BRITISH HOMES INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—A. C. V (Forest Gate).—It would be difficult to dispose of them without loss.

JAPANESE BONDS.—PENANG (Penang, S.W. Settlements).—We see little likelihood of much improvement in these bonds at present.

MERCANTILE BANK OF LONDON.—NEW READER (Camden Road).—(1) We know of no sufficient reason why you should not make the suggested deposit. (2) The other bank you name is in a very strong financial position.

HOUSE PURCHASE COMPANY.—W. H. (Sheffield).—There are others we should prefer.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—J. K. (Portsmouth).—It is doubtful, but the only way to sell is by advertising.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES SYNDICATE.—J. G. C. (Welverdiend, near Potchefstroom).—The International Securities "Syndicate" sold its business to the "Corporation" of the same name in December last. There were many irregularities, to use a mild word, committed by the syndicate. The Corporation claims to run on straight lines. We have made inquiries with respect to your bonds, and we are informed that they were sent to you on May 6th, so that long before you see this answer we hope the bonds will be with you. Let us know if that is the case. We thank you for your kind expressions, which we are pleased to know are shared by many other residents in South Africa.

MUSIC HALL SHARES.—G. M. (Islington).—You should purchase through a member of the Stock Exchange.

FARROW'S BANK.—J. L. H. (Blackburn).—Yes, we think so.

DYNAMOTOR, LIMITED.—INVESTOR.—We will make some inquiries, and let you know in our next issue.

THE LOCOMOTIVE STEAM ENGINE AND FIREMEN'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—R. C. B. (Lower Keysham).—If the facts are as you state, then your father seems to have been rather unfairly treated, but it is not a matter in which we can interfere.

THE BRITISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—J. H. L. (Tipton).—No.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—CAREFUL (New Cross).—Have nothing to do with the people whose circular you send us. G. R. P. (Birmingham).—We do not recommend outside brokers for the purpose of assisting our readers to lose their money in stock and share gambling. LUX (Jersey).—Have nothing to do with them. DOUBTFUL (Crewe).—If you want to speculate on the Stock Exchange—a very unwise thing to do—you should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. BRUM (Birmingham).—Have nothing to do with the people whose circular you send us. CARACTACUS (Filey).—If the facts are as you state them, these people have no doubt swindled you, but your difficulty if you went to law would be that they would probably plead, and successfully, the Gaming Act. J. H. (Holdsworth).—Have nothing to do with them.

CURRIE AND CRISP.—S. J. (Dundee).—We are obliged to you for the information contained in your letter. Your experience is almost identical with that of our correspondent whose statement we published in our last issue. There is no doubt that these people ought to be laid by the heels.

THE ISLANDS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—A. P. (Newport).—We should prefer another selection. We return your policy and correspondence. G. W. B. (Woodford).—It seems pretty clear, from your statement of the case, and from the advice given to you by your solicitor, that technically the company are in the right, and, if that be admitted, there is no more to be said from the point of view of legal liability.

CHARING CROSS BANK.—W. T. (Potbar).—We cannot recommend deposits.

STAGG AND MANTLE.—MISS D. (Rewtown).—Instruct a stockbroker, who will sell them for you.

JENKINSON AND COMPANY.—LASSIE BULL (Milnethorpe).—We cannot advise you to deal with these people or to buy any of the securities you name.

NORTH BRUNER COAL COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.—F. L. (Coventry).—We have no information respecting this company. It is unlikely that you would be able to sell the shares without incurring loss.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—J. B. (Tregony).—We are not satisfied that the trust can do what it claims to be able to do.

CONTRACTORS, LIMITED.—G. A. B. (Bristol).—We differ from the advice given.

LYONS' SHARES.—ENNION (Greenfield).—You should instruct a member of the Stock Exchange to buy the shares for you.

ONE AND ALL SICKNESS.—C. J. E. (Plymouth).—We cannot go further in the matter. F. S. (Burnham).—Probably there has been some clerical error. We will send on your letter to the management. ANXIOUS (Forest Gate).—No, it is not an insurance company in the strict sense of the term.

STANDING OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—P McK. (Bouraville).—We should prefer another selection.

SAFE DEPOSIT.—AGNEW (Earl's Court).—We cannot recommend depositing with people who offer such high rates of interest.

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The Subscription List will open on Thursday, the 2nd July, 1908, and will close on Friday, the 3rd July, 1908.

LIPTON LIMITED,

Incorporated under the Companies' Acts. 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £2,250,000.

DIVIDED INTO

1,000,000 FIVE PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES OF £1 EACH

AND

1,250,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF £1 EACH.

There is also £500,000 FOUR PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK.

The first issue of 1,000,000 Preference Shares, 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares, and £500,000 Debenture Stock was allotted on the formation of the Company in 1898. The Capital of the Company was increased by 250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each by resolution passed on *19th June, 1908*, and these

250,000 Ordinary Shares are now offered for subscription at £1 5s. per Share,

payable as follows:

£0	**2**	**6**	**On Application.**
£0	**12**	**6**	**On Allotment (of which 5/- represents the premium).**
£0	**10**	**0**	**On 18th September, 1908.**

The Shares will rank *pari passu* for dividends with the existing Ordinary Shares to the extent of the amounts paid up, and from the respective dates fixed for payment.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCK:
THE MOST HONOURABLE THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE, K.G.
SIR GEORGE FAUDEL PHILLIPS, BART., G.C.I.E.
H. HOARE, ESQ. (C. Hoare and Co., Bankers, 37, Fleet Street, London).

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPANY:
SIR THOMAS J. LIPTON, BART., K.C.V.O.

DIRECTORS:
HUGH RANKIN. | JOHN GRAY.
THOMAS R. SMITH. | JOHN CANSFIELD.

BANKERS:
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Branches in Scotland,
also their correspondents,
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED (Country Branches in England), and
THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED, Dublin, and Branches in Ireland.

SOLICITORS:
CHARLES RUSSELL AND CO., 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, London.

AUDITORS:
TURQUAND, YOUNGS AND CO., 41, Coleman Street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE:
W. S. CARMICHAEL, City Road, London, E.C.

The Company was incorporated on 3rd March, 1898, and the net profits since that time, after providing £207,867 16s. 3d. for depreciation, have been £1,688,493 16s. 10d., or an average of £168,849 7s. 8d. per annum.

Out of which has been paid:—

Interest on Debentures	£197,785	5 9
Dividend on Preference Shares ...	£497,653	18 2
Dividend on Ordinary Shares	£828,369	16 8
Total	£1,523,229	0 7

The dividend on the Ordinary Shares for the past ten years has averaged £8 7s. per cent. per annum.

The total reserves of the Company now stand at £311,693 15s., to which will be added the premium on present issue less expenses.

The following are extracts from the Chairman's speech at the Annual Meeting of the Company at Winchester House, London, on 19th June, 1908:—

"Last year I foreshadowed that at no distant date the business would exceed anything yet accomplished, and the turnover, or the volume of business done for the past year exceeds by over one million sterling anything we have previously done. We are now, I am pleased to say, not only maintaining this advance, but, for the short period which has elapsed since the books were made up, the increase is over a quarter of a million ahead of last year. I believe the business is now only in its infancy, and that there is no limit to the possibilities of this unique trading concern, which is well known all over the world, and has no equal of its kind.

"We have devoted a considerable amount of time and money to refitting and enlarging the Branches, and to adding machinery and plant at our Stores and Warehouses, and this, I am sure, you will agree with me, is money well spent. My only regret is that it was not done earlier. I feel certain that in the years to come we shall reap very considerable benefit from these improvements.

"Another satisfactory feature of the business is the increase in our Export trade, which has always been large, and has, during the past year, made great strides.

"Since we last met, I have personally visited Egypt, where we are doing a very large trade, and also Ceylon, where we have a large sum of money invested in Tea, Cocoa, and Rubber Estates, with Warehouses, Factories, etc., and it is satisfactory to be able to report that I believe our Estates and Properties are as well, if not better managed than any other in the Island. The various improvements which I was able to make will also, I am sure, result in greater profits than we have hitherto obtained.

"As mentioned in the Report, we have opened a Wholesale Warehouse at Sydney, Australia—previously this trade was supplied from Colombo, but owing to the changes in the Australian tariff we can now only ship bulk Tea from India and Ceylon, and therefore the blending, packing, etc., has to be done in Sydney. As you will readily understand, the organization of this business, so many thousands of miles away, has involved a great deal of thought and expense, but I am pleased to say that the branch is now in thorough working order and the trade is increasing every week.

"The great development in our trade in India has necessitated our having premises specially erected in Calcutta for our requirements. These Warehouses are the largest and most up-to-date of their kind in the East.

"We have also opened a Branch Warehouse in Bombay, with results which have much exceeded our expectations.

"We have likewise established a branch in Karachi, to deal with the Northern trade of India—this branch is only recently opened, but I feel sure it will prove as successful as the others.

"The financial crisis in the United States at the end of last year interfered very much with our Export Trade to the American Continents, but I am glad to say it is now getting back to its old figures, and we shall, I am sure, see much larger trade in this direction from now onwards.

"The markets in many of the articles in which we deal have, during the year, shown abnormal fluctuations; but for this our profits would have been considerably larger.

"I do not think I need go through the items of the Balance-Sheet, but would point out that the larger trade we are doing necessitates carrying larger stocks, and, therefore, our assets and liabilities are correspondingly increased. Some of you may have observed, also, that the net profit of £162,776 is larger than in any previous year since 1902.

"We have also had numerous requests from Shareholders and others to open additional Branches in those towns where we are not already represented, and we have already opened, during the past year, and are now arranging to open, many new Branches in the principal towns throughout the Country, on a scale and in a way which will be a credit to the Company. This, of course, entails considerable expense. Hence, for this and the other reasons which I have already given you, we have decided to ask for your sanction to the issue of increased capital, as we must go on progressing; we cannot stand still, more particularly as there is a big demand for our goods all over the world, and, with respect to the large number of new Branches which are being got ready for opening, this extension of the business naturally means increased revenue, and the Shareholders will, I feel sure, benefit accordingly in the future."

The proceeds of this issue will be partly applied to replacing sums already expended by the Company, on Capital account, and the balance utilised for further extension and additional working capital.

Of the shares issued on the formation of the Company, 333,333 Preference Shares, 333,333 Ordinary Shares, and £166,666 of Debenture Stock (all credited as fully paid up) were issued as part of the £2,466,666, the consideration for the sale to the Company of the business of Sir Thomas Johnstone Lipton. The residue of the original capital and of the £500,000 Debenture Stock was offered as to the Preference Shares at par, and as to the Ordinary Shares at 25s. per share, on the formation of the Company, and was allotted and has been fully paid up.

Application will in due course be made to the Stock Exchange for a Special settlement and quotation of the shares now offered.

A brokerage of 3d. per share will be paid on allotments made in pursuance of applications stamped with the name of a Broker.

Applications for shares should be made on the Forms accompanying the Prospectus, and be sent to the Company's Bankers with the amount payable on application.

Applications made by existing Shareholders will receive preferential consideration.

Copies of the Prospectus and the Forms of Application may be obtained at all the Branches of the business in the United Kingdom, and also from the Bankers or Solicitors.

Should the number of shares allotted be less than the number applied for, the deposit will be applied towards what is payable on allotment. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum will be charged on overdue instalments. Failure to pay any instalment upon the shares allotted when due will render previous instalments liable to forfeiture.

This prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

London, 27th June, 1908.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION MAY BE USED.

LIPTON, LIMITED.

Issue of 250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, at 25s. per Share.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY SHARES.
(To be retained by the Bankers.)

To the Directors of

LIPTON, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on application for .....Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the above Company at the issue price of 25s. per share, I request you to allot me that number of shares upon the terms of the Prospectus dated the 27th June, 1908. I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number of shares which you may allot to me, subject to the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name upon the Register of Members in respect of the shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted shares, as required by the terms of the said Prospectus.

Ordinary Signature.....

Name (in full).....
(Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

NOTE. Please write very distinctly.

Address (in full).....

Profession or Occupation.....

Date.....1908.

All cheques to be made payable to Bearer, and Crossed to one of the Company's Bankers.

AMONG THE MUMMERS.

TWO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

Two of the most important developments in connection with theatrical matters in Europe for some time past are the decision of Mr Charles Frohman to follow his Paris production of "Peter Pan" by other productions of English (or Scottish) plays in English in Paris, the French provinces and various Continental countries, and the entry of Mr. Joseph Lyons into the ranks of our London theatrical caterers. Taking the second matter first, I am extremely glad to hear that Mr. "Joe" Lyons is taking over the Princess's Theatre in Oxford Street, and is to be congratulated on his new venture, for which he is Chairman of Directors. Mr. Joseph Lyons will make money for the public who invest in the Theatre the same way as he did for his Company, viz., J. Lyons and Company. When I say Mr. Joe Lyons, I mean Mr. Joe Lyons. True, theoretically, he is only part of a company or syndicate which includes also Lord Elcho and Mr. Cecil Raleigh; and the manager nominally is to be Mr. Albert Gilmer. But where Joseph is, Joseph is the man who matters; and it is the Lyons' spirit and the Lyons' method that are going to make the Princess's once more what it was under Wilson Barrett

THE OPENING FOR DRAMA.

Why someone else has not done what Mr. Lyons and his allies propose to do passes my comprehension. We have about thirty West End theatres. Only one of them charges popular prices and stages popular drama. Yet melodrama has been the best paying theatrical proposition in England from time immemorial; and it will be to the end—for the English people are the least realistic, the most sentimental and naturally virtuous people on earth. Nine out of ten Londoners are working folk who like simple plays, played broadly and vigorously. Out of our thirty West End theatres I venture to say not five have more than paid their way during the past two years, although trade has been fairly good and money reasonably plentiful, except in the City. The Lyceum has paid its way handsomely, however; and the reasons are easy to find. It has given the people what they want, at prices they can afford to pay; and the actors and actresses do the thing in good solid English style, not subtly and mumblingly, but straight from the chest and straight from the shoulder. When they open their mouths you can hear what they say; when they make a gesture it has unmistakable meaning. Moreover, the Lyceum, despite its enormous size, is one of the few London theatres reasonably rented, and this very size is a secondary secret of the Carpenter-Smith success. At its low prices it holds as much money as the higher-price houses,

THE MORAL OF THE LYCEUM.

Now, the fact that one popular drama house is prosperous in the West End does not mean that a dozen would be; but it suggests that two might be. I understand that Mr. Lyons has fixed things on moderate lines with Mr. Benjamin Keith, the owner of the Princess's, and that nearly £60,000 will be spent on making the house capable of holding 3,000 persons, not merely in safety, but in comfort; indeed, in something very like luxury. Whether "The Master-Crime"—the Lyons-Raleigh shilling shocker, which the joint authors have since dramatised—will be the opening bill at the Princess's is uncertain as yet. I should imagine this would give a good lead off. Anyway, that is the type of play likely to be favoured by the management; and with the Lyons' prestige and the Lyons' push behind it, the Princess's, I believe, will become a fine property.

THE INVASION OF EUROPE.

I rejoice in the coming of Mr. Lyons into the world of the London theatre for the same reason that I am glad to see the general success of Mr. Charles Frohman here, as well as in America, and wish him luck in his Continental projects. Both are plain business men. Of course, Mr. Frohman is not in the theatrical industry for his health, nor for artistic reasons; but how many managers are, except after dinner when replying for "The Drama" before some crowd of mutual-admiration mugs? If it be a worthy and artistic ambition in a theatre manager to cast the plays he produces, so far as his arrangements with authors will permit, with impartiality and rare judgment, then Mr. Frohman has quite as much reason to talk of art as any of his rivals. But he does not. It is because he does not chatter of his artistic ideals (and other rot) that I like Mr. Frohman.

THAT TRUST BOGEY.

When Mr. Frohman came to London first he was attacked as the feeler of an octopus-like American Theatrical Trust. Whether, as he says, he acts quite independently of the Trust, so far as London is concerned, I do not know. But I do know that he has shown no slackness in giving new authors a chance—no greater slackness than other managers, I mean; whilst the plays and the acting at his theatres have been among the best seen in London. On the other hand, I fail to observe any peculiarly maleficent influence exercised by him upon the London stage. I wonder whether he or Mr. Lyons will be the man to bring order out of the chaos now prevailing in the English provincial theatre? There is a huge and promising field here, Joseph; and I advise you to study it carefully. I understand that the prospectus of the new Princess's Theatre will appear in the leading daily papers on Monday, July 6th. The interest that this undertaking has aroused is evinced by the great demand for advanced prospectuses.

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What 1s. a Month will do:

Ensure £1 a Week for any Sickness.
Ensure £1 a Week for any Accident.
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2.—Is your earning power insured?
3.—Accident and sickness visit us when we are least prepared for it.
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5.—Nothing kills quicker than worry.
6.—If you are not insured you must worry.

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HEADACHE AND NEURALGIA CURE.

In medicines above all things it is essential that you have the best that money can buy—An article with an established reputation—Such an one is KAPUTINE HEADACHE CURE, discovered 20 years ago by the late Dr. Dyson, M.D.

Kaputine is a PROVED cure—the most rapid as well as the most trustworthy for Headache and Neuralgia. However severe the pain, Kaputine will cure in ten minutes.

1/- per packet of 18 doses. Samples 1d. each.

The Proprietors will be pleased to supply samples free for trial.

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THE TEN MINUTES CURE FOR HEADACHE and NEURALGIA.

HIGH-GRADE POSITIONS.

We have always a large number of High-Grade Positions open in Clerical, Technical, Organising, and Travelling capacities—positions carrying salaries of from £150-£1,000—and we want to hear from really High-Grade Men who are capable of filling them. If you are a man possessed of Special Ability, write us to-day.

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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Private Correspondence.

Ought private letters to be printed after the death of the writer? It is a case of minor morals that has often been debated, and that was taken up with great earnestness by the famous political writer of the last reign, Miss Harriet Martineau. She so strongly held that letters ought no more to be printed than confidential conversation ought to be repeated, that she determined to make it impossible in her own case, and wrote off to all her friends to ask for her own correspondence to be returned to her, and wrote no more to any friends who refused that request. The point is newly raised again by the publication of certain of Queen Victoria's letters. Those that she herself filed and left behind her at Windsor Castle, and that the King has recently ordered to be published, are on a special footing; if she had not been willing that those letters should in due course pass into the history of her time, she would not have had them stored up, or indeed copied in the first place, as regards her personal and family correspondence. But the letters with which her late Majesty honoured Sir Theodore Martin, and which he has just published, are different. Those she may justly be held to have intended to be private, and if she could now see what happens in this sublunary sphere, she might well be very mortified at finding remarks that she carelessly and hastily threw off as a mere compliment to a valued servant, trotted out in print as the expression of her opinions on important topics.

Queen Victoria and Women Doctors.

Queen Victoria was sufficiently broad-minded to modify her expressed opinions if she received better information. One interesting illustration of this openness to conviction was the question of women studying medicine. Queen Victoria, in writing a letter to her physician in Scotland, Sir R. Christison, happened to say that she strongly disapproved of this study for women; and this was widely published. A few years later, she received a personal appeal from an Indian Princess, who begged the great Queen to send women doctors to attend on the Indian native women, who are not allowed to consult a man doctor, and whose unalleviated sufferings were therefore terrible. This so touched the Queen's heart that she sent for Lady Dufferin, then the Vice-reine of India, and commissioned her to undertake the task of obtaining women qualified doctors for Indian women; this was the origin of "Lady Dufferin's Fund" that has done so much in that way in India. Later on, all the Queen's daughters (who invariably had to get her leave before patronising any new step in social affairs) gave some assistance to the medical education of women. For instance, Queen Alexandra (when Princess of Wales) opened the New Hospital for Women, at which all the doctors are women; and Princess Christian became the President of the Ladies' Committee of the Royal Free Hospital, at which alone in London women students are allowed to qualify for their degrees. If the late Queen had not lived to openly show the change in her views on that question, one feels that the letter she at first wrote against it would have been very improperly ever after printed as her fixed opinion.

An Interesting Form of Literature.

On the other hand, how very interesting are many collections of letters! Some collections, indeed, one perceives were written so entirely without thought of their meeting any eyes but those of the person addressed that one feels almost ashamed while one reads, almost as if one listened at a keyhole. Of such are the love letters of Keats to Fanny Brown (from which the Grand Duke Michael, it seems, has drawn the inspiration of his new love story) and those of Mary Wollstoncraft to her lover, Imlay. But how delightful and how informing are other collections, which one feels were written with a frequent glance toward a possible future publication; such as those of Swift to Stella, or those of Madame de Sévigné to her daughter. After all, the doings of the dead and all that bears upon their character and life, if they were people important enough to be interesting at all, must be the property of history. The only course to pursue, especally if one is in love, is to be careful what one writes; say, to set up on the writing table a big card inscribed in giant characters—"Remember the Printer!" The most disagreeable of all ways to see one's writing in print is surely in a newspaper report of a breach of promise or a divorce case.

The Fashion in Ruffles.

This is the day for the slender damsel. Every fashion is in her favour at present. Not only do the skirts cling to the shape, and the high-waisted corsages demand a suppression of all hips, but the ruffles that are so favoured by fashion require a long, thin neck. It is senseless to adopt a fashion that is distinctly unbecoming, however, and women with short throats will look as if their heads were tied on if they put on one of the full ruffles that closely surround the neck. Leaving these to the swan-like-throated damsel, the columnar-throated one should purchase instead those other kinds that are equally fashionable, which finish so as to rest on the bosom at each side of the chin, and sitout widely upon theshoulders and behind. These are the newest style over from Paris, where the fitness of things in dress is studied with judgment, and where it has been realised that many of us will both look nicer and be more comfortable in a ruffle that does not quite encircle the throat.

SOUND FINANCIAL METHODS.

THE TRIUMPH OVER PREJUDICES. VICTORY OF REFORM.

There are few studies that afford greater pleasure or give greater satisfaction to the studiously inclined nature than a careful examination of the rise and fall of ancient nations, or the gradual decay of old traditions and the absorption or extinction of old institutions. The student, if he so desires, can trace how from these past great traditions a new code of ideas has gradually evolved, while from the structures of old historic houses new enterprises more fitted to deal with the altered conditions of time have been brought into being.

THE BATTLE WITH PREJUDICE.

All great reforms that have tended to shake settled beliefs or to upset established methods have had to contend with both prejudice and violent opposition. It has been so in religion, in politics, in banking, in finance, and so it has been in the establishment of the London and Paris Exchange, Limited, an institution founded to give greater and more extended facilities for financial transactions and dealing in and obtaining advances on Stock Exchange securities. The directors wish to congratulate their supporters that, notwithstanding all this opposition, they have succeeded in establishing their enterprise, and they are convinced, from the progressive advancement of their business, that they occupy to-day a high position in public favour. The sound and liberal principles on which the business is conducted justify the belief that future years will witness a continuance of steady and healthy expansion, and bring increased prosperity.

MODERN INVESTMENT.

To-day investment is on very different lines from what it was twenty, or even ten, years ago. The sphere of investment has been considerably broadened, and methods have become greatly diversified.

PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS.

What the investor must do is to make it his business to obtain all necessary information from trustworthy sources. See that your money gives you a fair return, and that it is not locked up in unmarketable securities, where there is practically no chance of appreciation in capital value, and when you wish to realise there is no market to sell on. But, naturally, the investor asks, "How am I to obtain this knowledge? How am I to avoid being drawn into schemes which will mean loss of money to me? How am I to clearly understand the intricacies of money matters and Stock Exchange investments?"

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The whole subject of investment and finance is lucidly and thoroughly explained, in a clear, practical manner, in "Modern Banking and Investment," a book which has been specially compiled by experts on all the varied financial subjects of the day. It is intended to help and assist those who desire that their capital shall be safely invested and at the same time yield a good return. It also lucidly explains the complicated technicalities of all Stock Exchange operations—it affords a complete encyclopædia to the Stock Exchange, and how profits can be made.

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London and Paris Exchange, Ltd.,
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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

THE LIMERICK DECISION.

We referred in our last issue to the unanimous opinion of the Court of Appeal that the Limerick competitions are lotteries, and therefore illegal. In view of this decision Judge Woodfall has intimated that if he is pressed to give a decision now in the Pearson case he will find that Pearson's competitions are a lottery, and make no order as to costs. In this connection we may mention that the Court of Appeal took precisely the view expressed in the pamphlet written by Mr. J. Scott Duckers for the National Anti-Gambling League as long ago as last October. A point made by the Court of Appeal, namely, that however much the element of skill might enter into the attempts submitted, and however painstaking and careful the ultimate judge might be, the element of chance could not fail to be abundantly present in any competition in which thousands of attempts have to be considered, is very important. The Court of Appeal pointed out that the larger the staff of "competent assistants" the more risk there is of one or other of them deciding that a particular line is good enough to send to the final judge, and another deciding that an identical line should be weeded out. At the same time, whilst rejoicing that the Limerick nonsense is over, we would not like to guarantee that the decision would stand on appeal to the Lords.

EXCURSION TICKETS.

It is difficult to reconcile some of the peculiar decisions upon legal points with common sense. Take for example the case of a lady against whom judgment was given before the Liverpool County Court Judge for the amount of the difference between the price of an excursion ticket from Liverpool to Manchester and the full fare. It seems that the lady in question, Mrs. Morgan, returned by an afternoon train with her excursion ticket. When she was told that she must pay full fare or return by a train after 5 o'clock, Mrs. Morgan refused on the ground that this condition was not made known to her when she bought the ticket. In answer to that her attention was directed to a line in very small type, which ran:—"Return as per Bill." What bill? The Company's representative produced an excursion leaflet which gave the train by which the excursion ticket holder must return, but the words on the ticket "Return as per Bill" were in such small type that, according to the report of the proceedings, the judge could only read them by the help of a magnifying glass. Surely the reasonable inference here is that the Company desired to deceive? It wished to induce passengers to believe that they could come back by any train. Otherwise, why the almost invisible type? Railway companies which stoop to dirty tricks of this kind ought not to be encouraged in their evil doing.

"TAXI" HIRING.

Another strange decision is that of Mr. Paul Taylor, of the Marylebone Police Court, who has just laid it down that time ought not to run against the hirer of a "taxi" until he has entered the cab. In the case that gave rise to this very questionable decision, the driver put his flag down, and so began to register directly he was called. Why not? The hiring commenced with the hailing of the cab. Suppose one rings up for a cab, and one's house is half a mile away from the cabstand. Can it be seriously contended that the cabman is to wait until he reaches the house before he begins to count the time of employment? Of course if you add to the telephone message that you will only pay from the time of the arrival of the cab, and its owner or driver agrees to the condition, there is no more to be said. But putting aside this special contract, the rule for the hirer of a "taxi" should be that which covers the horse cab. To make it otherwise is, as it seems to us, obviously unfair, and we should be surprised if a higher Court than Mr. Taylor's did not decide it was also wrong.

ARRESTS AND BAIL.

Without in any way commenting upon the merits of the Sievier case, we desire to enter a protest against the practice of effecting arrests—except in cases of great and special urgency at times and under conditions which prevent the possibility of the accused being admitted to bail until he has spent a night, or sometimes—in the case of Saturday arrests—two nights in the cell. There was absolutely no reason why Mr. Sievier's arrest should have been effected with all that theatrical show at Sandown Park, on Saturday afternoon; and being so arrested, it is a scandal that the magistrate should not have remained at the Court to deal with the question of bail.

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As everyone knows, an Anagram consists of the letters of a word used in different order, so as to form another word or words. Examples—

WORD CHOSEN.	ANAGRAM.
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Marriage	a grim era
Pleasure	pure alee

All the letters in the chosen words, and only those letters, must appear in the anagram.

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Write the word you select from this announcement, and the anagram you make from it, on a sheet of note paper, with your name and address plainly written underneath, and post it at once, enclosing a sixpenny postal order (not stamps). More than one attempt may be made, but with each separate attempt a sixpenny postal order must be sent. You should take advantage of this offer immediately, as it may not appear again. Delays are dangerous so do not procrastinate. Closing date of the competition July 15th. The result, and complete list of winners' names, will be duly announced to all competitors fourteen days later. Mark your envelope "Anagram D," and address:

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A copy of this work will be forwarded post free on mentioning JOHN BULL to THE SECRETARY,

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Established 15 years.

AMONG THE BOOKS

By Herbert Vivian.

"Shorty McCabe." By Sewell Ford. (London: Laurie. Price 6s.)

This is the autobiography of a Yankee prize-fighter, and is written in the most extraordinary jargon. I have a smattering of most civilised languages, but I am very glad that I am not obliged to try and make myself understood on the other side of the Atlantic. I believe I might safely offer a guinea to any Englishman who could tell me off-hand the meaning of the following words and phrases:—A cinch, a bunch, a goo-goo smile, stumps, chump, "the minute I lets someone lead me across a ferry, or beyond the Bronx, the event card is on the blink, and I'm a bunky-doodle boy." . . "Course, I can't register any kick; for when it comes to doing the hair-trigger friendship act, Pinckney's the real shookum preferred." "Beats the cars, don't it, the good health that's wasted on some of these foreigners?" "The silly old moss-agate." "Right to home." "I had a half-Nelson on him before he knew it was coming." "The nutty one had handed me the lemon." "I couldn't see the use of monkeyin' with that bug-house boarder." "Would you stand for any machinery-loft butt-in like that?" "It's about as safe to leave a branch road out after nightfall when Gordon's around as it would be to try raise watermelons in Minetta Lane." This kind of stuff occurs on nearly every page, and is terribly perplexing. Again and again I had to hark back in order to catch any meaning, and even then I was very often unenlightened. It is a pity the author has not provided us with a glossary at the end of the book, as some of the stories, and many of the phrases, are quite amusing. For instance, "sawin' wood" is not a bad description of a man breathing deeply when he is fast asleep. I also like the expression to "bet hot air against real money," when one man means to pay and the other does not. One story in particular is well worth spelling out. Mr. Jarvis invited Shorty to his house, for a turn with the gloves. Mrs. and Miss Jarvis and Lady Evelyn came in to look on. Mr. Jarvis, being in love with Lady Evelyn, wished to impress her, but the first boxing match was so tame that she thought nothing of it. The sister expressed delight that the exhibition was not brutal.

> Lady Evelyn humped her eyebrows and gave me one look. "No," says she, "I shouldn't call it brutal, exactly," and then she swallows a polite, society snicker in a way that made me mad from the ground up. Jarvis didn't lose any of that, either. I got a glimpse of him turnin' automobile red, and tryin' to choke himself with his tongue.

So then Jarvis persuaded Shorty to fight him in real earnest a few days later. The referee was a gentleman with "a bent-in nose, an' a lop ear, an' a jaw like a hippo." He opened the proceedings by addressing the three ladies as follows:—

> "This is a five-round go for a stay, between Professor Shorty McCabe, ex-light-weight champeen of the world, and another gent what goes on the cards as an unknown. It's catch weights, an' the winner pulls down the whole basket of greens. There ain't goin' to be no hittin' after the clinch, and if there's any fouls, you leave it to me. Don't come buttin' in. It's been put up to me to keep time an' referee this mix-up, and I don't want no help. You bottle-holders stay in your corners till the count's over. Now are you ready? Then go!"

The whole fight is brightly described, and the climax is quite cinematographic.

> Just as I gets this notion in my nut, he cuts loose with a bunch of rapid-fire jabs that had me wonderin' where I'd be if one landed just right. I ain't got it mapped out yet just how it happened; for about then the ladies let go a lot of squeals; but I remembers stoppin' a facer that showed me pin-wheels, an' then I quits fancy boxin'.
>
> We was roughin' it all over the ring, and Swifty an' the Gorilla was yellin' things, an' Slattery was yellin' back at them, and the muss was as pretty as any ten-dollar-a-head crowd ever paid to see, when all of a sudden Jarvis misses a swing, and I throws all I had into an upper cut. It connected with his chin dimple like a hammer on a nut. The next thing I knows Swifty has the elbow-lock on me from behind, and Mike is standin' over Mr. Jarvis makin' the count. . . When I gets so I can look straight I sees mother keeled over in her chair, and sister fannin' her with the chocolate box. And say, I felt like a lead quarter. Next I takes a squint at Lady Evelyn. She was standin' up as stiff as a tin soldier on parade, with her eyes snappin' and her fingers clinched.

The result, of course, was that Lady Evelyn was very anxious about Mr. Jarvis's recovery, she was at last convinced that he was really quite plucky, and he seized the opportunity to become engaged. The author evidently possesses a riotous sense of humour, and it might be worth his while to attempt to learn English. At any rate, he is more readable than Mark Twain.

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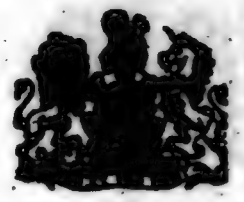

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BULL'S EYES.

SOME UNFOUNDED AND COMPOUNDED RUMOURS:—
That the Strand statuary is "high" art.
That the Great Shout has left the Suffragettes no voice to Asquith.
That in Pudsey, folks are saying 'twas Oddy got in.
That the Bankers are about to present our Editor with a highly illuminated address.
That "novel," as applied to present-day fiction, means "new."
That Mrs. Pankhurst is a Commons scold.
That disorder is unknown in the House of Lords.
That the one-time Volunteers say that "T.A." stands for "Turned Away."

"Civilisation gave us the printing press," says Mr. E. B. Murdoch. But the printing press does not give civil-lies-a-shun.

Alluding to the increasing price of water in the City, Dr. Waldo, the coroner, said it would soon be cheaper to wash in champagne. A magnum bonum.

Mustapha Rechid has been smashing up all the furniture of his cell in the Santé Prison. Evidently he Mustapha Rechid time.

"Thames Boats: A Hitch," reads a heading. We always thought they were a scratch lot.

A vulture has escaped on its way to the Zoo. Why not search the roof of the Stock Exchange?

Lady Frances Balfour, at the Suffragette demonstration, remarked that Mr. Asquith "is open to squeezing." They won't get much out of *him*.

Father Vaughan condemns what he terms the leasehold marriage. Does he prefer the release?

Mr. Baxter, the coroner, recently alluded to "the useful motor 'bus." no doubt *he* finds it so.

A Virginia shilling, dated 1770, has been sold in New York for £101. Not a bad shilling.

When the new police court at Ostend was opened, the first prisoner, a beggar, was sentenced to receive a good square meal. Capital punishment.

"The ugly heroine is dying out," says the *Lady's Pictorial*. Is the public tired of realism?

The American Five-inch League advocates a skirt showing five inches clear of the ground. Personally, we like one showing two feet.

A girl named Rosa Thimble has been discharged from a large New York store because she is too beautiful. Her face is her misfortune.

The Rev. Lee James says that the less you eat the longer you live. Starvation should thus result in immortality.

A correspondent wants to know "the most suitable overhead accommodation." A hat we suggest.

QUICK TRUTHS.
Shakespeare's plays are also Shakespeare's works.
Some short stories are in reality very tall.
Men of loose lives are frequently very tight.
You can buy servility where you cannot get civility.

Why is an umbrella like an M.P.? Because the older it becomes the more difficult it is to shut up.

Wych Street has ceased long time Wych Street to be,
Which street it is is not so clear to me.

The G. B. S. Calendar contains a saying of G. B. S. for each day in the year. Oh, for leap year!

Thieves have stolen a quantity of ham belonging to Mr. George Coomber. They boned it.

The Semi-Teetotal League is growing. Its members pledge themselves (*a*) never to be more than half drunk and (*b*) never to drink between drinks.

Apes have appeared at certain freak dinners in the States. They always do.

Mr. Lucas has been sentenced for bigamy. As he appears to have had three wives he ought to have been indicted for trigamy.

Mr. John Burns has begun to combat the "mob spirit." What about the snob spirit?

Mr. Clifton, of Wimbledon, who has been collecting for the poor, but stuck to the results, believes that charity ends at home.

According to Reuter, the Czarewitch is fond of blowing bubbles. Like father, like son.

ROWLANDS' Preserves, Beautifies, and Restores the
MACASSAR OIL HAIR.
Resembles the Natural Oil in the Hair, the loss of which causes Baldness.
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JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

MR. BOTTOMLEY AND THE BUDGET.—The Publisher will be pleased to forward to any reader sending a penny stamp to cover postage a copy of Mr. Bottomley's speech upon the Budget.

OWING to the large demand, we have prepared another large batch of postcards, and the Publisher will be pleased to forward a supply to readers upon receipt of stamped envelopes for postage.

T. P. (Palmer's Green).—It certainly says much for the enterprise, if not the humanity, of the firm that, having invited you to apply for a situation, and you having been unsuccessful, they should then suggest that you should buy one of their bicycles. However, as the French say, "*Les affaires sont les affaires.*"

B. J. B. (Stoke Newington).—Jim is home again, worse luck.

G. A. S (Hackney) bought a copy of *Answers*, dated 20th June, at Stafford on the 15th of that month, for the purpose of being insured against accident. ut found to his dismay that the insurance did not begin to run till the 16th. Another time he will doubtless ask for "last week's issue."

F. J. T. (Liverpool).—Thanks for cuttings. You shall have some postcards.

B. J. C. (Eastbourne) and others tell us that they know of cases in which bakers shops are owned by millers, who stand in relation to their tenants in just the same position as the brewers to the tenants of tied houses. This is very interesting.

J. J. C. (Birmingham).—We will ask our printer whether, in printing "Licesing Act," he meant "Lie ceasing Act."

J. B. (Lower Broughton).—Buying books with your money is equivalent to keeping it.

H. W. M (Ilford).—We have our eye on the solicitors as well as the bankers—but one at a time. And, after all, the dormant cash balances are the first things to get hold of.

T. C. A. (Suffolk).—We dealt fully with the position of the International Securities *Corporation* in our issue of March 7th.

A. M. P. (Lowes).—We are questioning the Prime Minister in regard to "tied" bakers, tobacconists and provision merchants.

F. E. F. (Taunton).—Thanks for information *re* the Spaxton Agapemone. It must be a lively place.

S. U. (Poole) asks our advice on behalf of a friend of his upon whom H. Gibbs & Co., of 18, Queen Street, Hammersmith called, asking her to become a member of the "Gibbs' Bible Society," stating that on her doing so and signing her name to a form, they would present her with a family Bible. She consented, and the man left the book. Two days after, she had a letter saying the cost of the Bible would be £2 10s., and she could pay 4s. a month. In view of the fact that Gibbs & Co. are among the leading exponents of this old trick, our advice to S. U. is that he should get his friend to lay the facts before the police, with a view to their prosecuting Gibbs & Co. for attempting to obtain money by false pretences.

W. H. (Loughborough).—Lack of family influence or of a degree from Oxford or Cambridge is no bar to entry to the Indian Civil Service which is to be made only by open competition. Neither will any degree carry any weight with the examiners, who judge the papers on their merit, but it should be understood that the bulk of the candidates are from Cambridge or Oxford, where successful men have to spend a period studying Oriental languages before proceeding to India. Once there you may be sure that family influence is extremely useful. Full particulars with specimen papers may be obtained of Messrs Eyre and Spottiswoode.

L. H. (Cowes) wants a biscuit for a statement that Major Renton "has now formally entered the Conservative Party by becoming a member of the Liberal Union Club." But Liberal Unionists are notoriously Conservatives masquerading as Liberals.

G. W. P. (Folkestone).—We are probably all at the mercy of our gas companies. They can, and most of them probably do, charge whatever they jolly well please.

"M. OF KENT" (Birkenhead) sends us a simple puzzle in arithmetic, to which the obvious answer is nothing.

"SARNIA" (Guernsey).—You will see that we have followed your advice and resumed Jim Crow's articles, and that without being driven to taking your tip about the omission of racing notes.

"DESTROYER" (Sheerness) says that he wrote quite two months ago asking for us for financial assistance as well as tendering his humble meed of praise to our worthy publication. We are glad to hear that our carelessness did not inconvenience him, and that he is now a millionaire. He agrees with us about the Scouts' newspaper, and says, "How any sane man could have originated such a thing passes belief." But did any sane man?

L. B. (Godalming) sends us a sixteen-page letter about the Licensing Bill, the Prince of Wales, the temperate habits of the aristocracy, the Salvation Army, improvident marriages, the extravagance of attending football matches, the income of Lord Roberts, and, of course, the Suffragettes. We hope she will write again very soon. P.S.—Since penning these lines we have found two more letters from her facile pen, and one of them consists of eighteen pages. We hope she will persevere.

B. S., JUN. (Forest Gate) pleads pathetically for Poland. Pish!

J. F. B. (Stoke Newington).—Quite right. The phrase about the exiguity of the doorway was a polite reference to His Majesty's embonpoint.

S. T. (Swansea) has lived in a public-house all his life and wants to become a bank clerk. He had better write to the Secretary of the City of London College, Moorfields. An examination is held every half-year, but we believe that a nomination is necessary for such posts.

J. S. (Nottingham).—That misprint of "years" for "yards" seems to be epidemic just now. We have selected the best version we could find for a biscuit.

W. S. (Grantham).—Yes, the late Government discharged more men from Woolwich Arsenal than the present Government. The *Star* gave the figures some time ago.

H. D. (Plaistow).—A passport is not necessary for a walking tour in France, but it will come in useful if you should be mistaken for a spy, or have to claim a registered letter. You can get one from the Foreign Office through your banker, or through one of the tourist agencies. We know of no prohibition about cameras, but you will do well not to take photographs in the neighbourhood of a fort.

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of our ancestors has been keyed up by modern methods of travelling by road, rail, and sea. Similarly the slow and easy-going writing methods of the goose-quill days are transformed to the cleaner, quicker, and more effective means of writing represented by Waterman's Ideal today. It is easily first amongst the fountain pens for its fluency, its easy running, its accurate feed, and its cleanliness either in or out of use.
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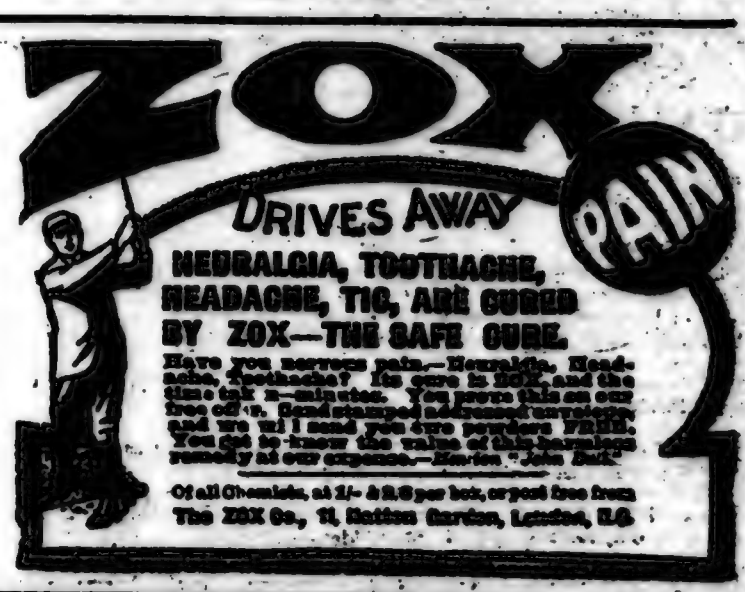
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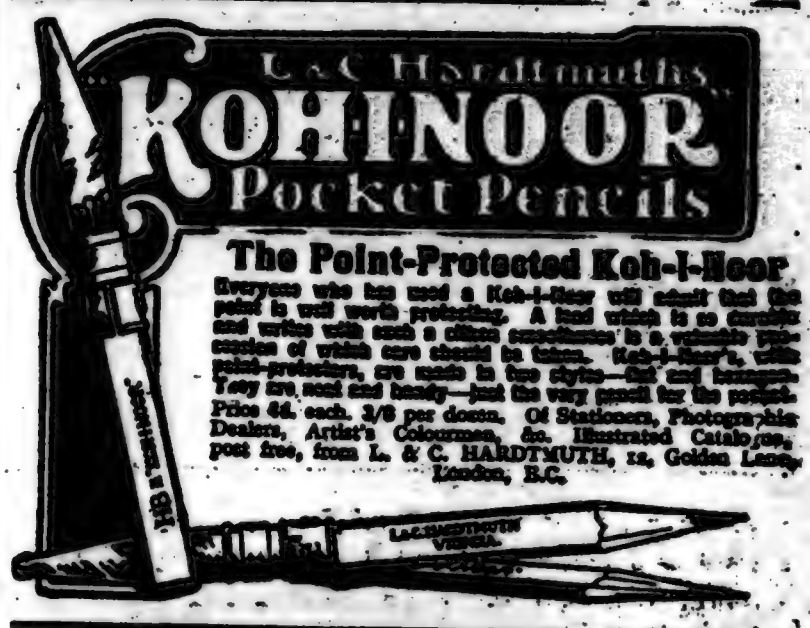
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WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page 5

B. S., Jun. (Forest Gate), sent us some time ago a system for predicting the winners of football matches, and he claims that it showed nearly 60 per cent. of correct forecasts. Now he has devised a method of tipping cricket results, but it is somewhat too complicated for our feeble intellect.

J. T. (Chester).—We know nothing about a remedy called Ohrsord, and you do not tell us what is your complaint. It sounds like a thick ear. Why not try the drug on your dog?

A. V. (Stepney) and R. A. L. (Whitechapel Road) want a biscuit for a statement that a man had five fingers blown off his hand by an explosion. But perhaps, like Little Tich, he was plentifully endowed with fingers. Or again, for explosive purposes, perhaps a thumb may be reckoned as a finger. R. A. L. also inquiries whether we buy our biscuits. The answer is that we return thanks for them, and then give them away absolutely free of charge.

R. S. (Gateshead-on-Tyne).—We do not quite follow your joke about Catharine of Braganza. Anyhow, it is a bit late to begin jesting about that lady's age.

G. O. K. (Isledon Road).—We do not understand a word of your letter, and suppose it is intended to inaugurate some new form of competition.

E. K. (Oakleigh Park) wants a biscuit for the *Daily Telegraph*, which alluded to a madrigal as a melody, and said that "the Chorus gave it unaccompanied by music." Perhaps the expression is loose, but we are inclined to think some melodies are all the better for the absence of music. Think of the melody of a dinner bell.

F. R. (Liverpool) states that the firm of James Cottle, Limited, the largest caterers in the North, employ at least a thousand hands in Liverpool, and pay all their waitresses 7s. per week for working from 8.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. six full days a week. We shall be glad to hear what Messrs. Cottle have to say in reply.

R. P. (Anerley) wants a biscuit for Mr. Leif Jones for rejoicing o'er the country's enthusiasm in favour of the Licensing Bill. But surely a biscuit would be too slender a reward.

D. McC. (Stirling).—We knew that Scotsmen were notorious for their devotion to the great cause of temperance, but we had forgotten that they were in the habit of closing public-houses on New Year's day. We wonder no one has yet seriously suggested that they should be closed on all Bank Holidays. Perhaps Mr. Asquith will kindly pigeon-hole the suggestion.

L. G. W. (Blaenavon) wants to know the winner of the Derby. We are sorry to have delayed answering his letter so long, but we can now answer with greater assurance than we might have done at an earlier date. Signorinetta is the animal for our money. He also wants a biscuit for a newspaper which used a feminine pronoun in referring to a Mr. Owens of London. But perhaps this was a delicate way of calling him an old woman.

W. T. A. (Dalston) goes one better, and wants a biscuit for the *Pelican* for having made use of the familiar phrase "old women of both sexes." But if that phrase were taken away from our vocabulary, what on earth could we say about Lord Avebury?

"MAX" (Manchester).—Even the *Daily Mirror* nods sometimes. Our circulation is prodigious, but if you want to know with a view to advertising, we will tell our manager to whisper the exact figure in your private ear.

J. B. R. (St. Neots) raises the whole question of Tariff Reform in a very lucid letter, which we will answer when the cool weather returns.

P. M. F. (London, E.C.).—The reports about thousands of people living in one room have now acquired an aroma of horse-chestnut.

W. S. I. (Shoreditch), J. J. (Nottingham), T. W. P. (Accrington), M. H (Liverpool), B. S. (Longsight), "Nemo," E. F. M. (Belfast), "Regular Reader" (Clapham), D. T. J. (Ramsgate), H. M. (Exeter), B. W. (Battersea), S. D. (Aberdeen), J. A. A. W. (University Avenue), C. W. B. (Norton-on-Tees), J. D. (Bradford), R. E. V. K. (North Kensington), N. T. (Clapham Junction), Mrs. A. M. (Molseley), Y. A. (Leeds), J. O. G. (Queen Victoria Street), B. W. F. A. (Eltham), G. M. D. (Harleeden), E. W. (Wexford), F. W. S. (Barnes), W. N. (Euston), "My Mo" (Cardiff), C. R. (Holloway Road), B. W. (Battle), C. H. B. (Newcastle-on-Tyne), W. J. H. (Southampton), "Tweedle" (North Cheam), H. J. (Clifton), "Whynes from the Woods," F. P. A. (Enfield), J. H. B. (King's Heath), H. H. S. (London N.W.), H. S. A. (Bristol), W. B. (Mitcham), A. L. (Sunderland), H. C. W. S. (Plaistow), Nurse O., E. W. D. (Southend-on-Sea), M. B. M. (Bristol), Mrs. A. W. (Peckham Rye), J. W. M. (Aldershot), "New Reader" (Rochdale), A. D. (Southampton), R. N. R. (Hampstead), "Curious" (Hathersage), T. N. L. C. (Stony Stratford), J. P. (London, S.E.), "Sceptical" (Stamford), M. R. N. (London, S.E.), H. B. C. (Manchester), "Man of Kent" (Birkenhead), D. N. (Kelvedon), J. B. S. (Birkenhead), S. E. T. (Herne Hill), J. H. (Birmingham), H. E. D. (Muswell Road), R. B. (Southport), A. W. F. W. (Liss), H. G. (Caerphilly), R. D. (Manchester), H. W. L. (Sheffield), G. A. C. (Lewis), F. O. (Basingstoke), A. J. (London, N.), F. T. (Birkenhead), Mrs. H. (Eccleshall), W. S. (Greenock), H. J. R. (Edmonton), S. D. (Nottingham), W. D. P. (Burton-on-Trent), M. O. G. (Bristol), G. W. C. (Rochester), J. A. F. (Birmingham), A. W. D. (Old Charlton), G. R. S. (St. Just), J. F. (Surbiton), F. W. B. (Manchester), R. E. C. (Gainsborough), H. B. (Glasgow), H. E. C. (Upton Park), E. S. (Brynmaur), M. C. M. (Thundersley), N. G. (Blackpool), H. A. J. (Edinburgh), F. R. (March), J. S., R. J. H. (Earlsfield), J. A. J. S. (Bermondsey), W. M. (Southport), J. E. E. (Stratford), R. D. G. (Westcombe Park), C. M. B. (Kenilworth), W. H. G. (Eastbourne), J. R. M. (Leith), T. E. D. (Herne Bay), J. A. M. (Bachelors' Club), H. E. (Kennington Park), E. M. (Hove), J. E. O. (Cardiff), "Cavalier" (Glasgow), R. S. (Morpeth), P. L. B. (Tonbridge), C. J. U. (Regent's Park), "Ralph Marley" (New Cross), "A Constant Reader" (Brentwood), "Weasle" (Great Yarmouth), W. McA. (Newcastle-on-Tyne), "Lemon-Dash" (Sunderland), A. W. S. (Southport), A. E. C. (Tottenham), G. W. (Coleshill), S. D. (Aberdeen), W. F. H. (Islington), C. H. (Exeter), "Dutch" (West Brompton), T. D. (Chiswell Street), A. G. (Garston), H. M. (Coventry), G. W. S. (Bermondsey), I. B. C. (Perth), W. F. D. (Bolton), "Repooh" (Broughty Ferry), J. C. W. (Donnybrook), W. H. P. (Nottingham), A. W. A. (Leyton), A. J. (Montgomery), J. T. Q. (Westcliff-on-Sea), W. T. W. (Burnley), H. A. B. (Eastbourne), J. B. J. (Gray's Inn Road), A. L. J. (Upper Norwood), A. M. M. (Lewisham), W. R. (Belfast), C. R. W. (York), R. A. D. (South Lambeth), "A Reader from Number One" (New Cross), J. B. (Westgate-on-Sea), E. G. (Portsmouth), J. S. (Belfast), H. B. D. (Teddington), J. R. H. (Dundee), G. J. W. (Battersea Park Road), and C. A., aged thirteen years (East Ham). Very many thanks. You overwhelm us.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTHIAN.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* "*The People*," *and* "*Magpie*" *of* "*The Globe*.")

An Anticipated Auction.

The International Horse Agency have just published a preliminary catalogue of well-bred young mares and foals for the Cobham Annual Sale, on Monday, July 20th.

Would Paul Nelke Know?

It is remarkable how owners carry in their memory *exactly* how long it is since they won a race—or how many they have won, and every similar detail. But after all it is only natural.

We Know from Experience,

Backers never seem to reckon or brood over losses incurred *early* in the week, their idea, of course, being that they are certain to "get out." But it is usually the beginning of their "getting in."

Up-to-Date.

Prior to their important four days Whit week meeting, the Manchester stands were entirely renovated, and the whole place was hardly recognisable in its new and up-to-date phase. The "Barrasford" Gate here has now been replaced by six new Grey machines, each having an electric release. The cost has been very heavy to the executive, but the sensible scheme which has worked so well was the outcome of the enterprise of Mr. R. L. Busby, the popular secretary of the meeting.

'Tis Often Done.

It is pointed out lucidly and with absolute justification and truth the loophole which the Post Office regulations afford to those who would lend themselves to telegraphic frauds upon a bookmaker. The plan is to hand in a large number of messages at a small suburban office, the first telegram being purposely a long one of several hundred words. While this is being transmitted, the result of the race is obtained by telephone, and then—under the Post Office rule—the telegrams are cancelled and recovered, being prevented upon the loss of a fee of 2d. for each message from delivery.

A Humorous Fact.

Trainers naturally hate the many little "tipping" sheets which include training reports, and frequently "give away" their secret trials. Yet I know of a case in which solely through such an issue an owner-trainer ran and won with one of his horses which otherwise would never have been started. Having the intention of not running, the trainer happened to have this paper sent to him by a friend with certain remarks regarding his own horse marked for his perusal. He realised that the tout was probably right in his arguments and judgment of the handicap, changed his intentions, ran his horse—and won!

E'rect Cards.

I am pleased to see that the Kempton and Hurst Park executives continue to allow the sale of race-cards at Waterloo, which is as it should be. A half and half arrangement has now been also come to in regard to Sandown, which executive do not as a fact control their own official programmes. Ordinarily an unlimited supply is granted on the usual basis, for all newspapers, etc., of sale or return—but the Sandown cards were for a period not issued on these terms. In consequence, of course, Mr. Chapman, the popular manager of the bookstall at Waterloo, was cautious not to overstock himself, and therefore many a would-be purchaser was disappointed and annoyed. Now, however, the arrangement is that all cards not actually sold can be returned upon payment of a 1d. each, which I cannot help saying still is an unfair arrangement as regards Smith and Son, who should not have to run risks to benefit the suppliers—especially as the "run on" in printing a few extra cards when a vast quantity is being done is merely nominal. It is a case of squeezing the orange.

Prophetic.

Newmarket will be half over before one can deal with the meeting; but if reserved for it, the six furlongs of the Exeter Stakes will suit PEROLA, while BLACKSTONE, who has been well tried, should win the Princess's Plate, and MALUA the Ellesmere Stakes, on Friday.

At Alexandra Park

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speed round the turns may win him the London Cup.

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